



building God's Church...blessing our community

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 20, 2020

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING** .....STEVE & ADELE HAWLEY

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**.....FROM ISAIAH 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light  
shone.

**You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its  
joy;  
For the yoke of his burden, the rod of his oppressor, you  
have broken.**

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,

**and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty  
God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be  
no end,

**(All:) The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

All creation, join in praising  
God the Father, Spirit, Son;  
evermore your voices raising  
to th'eternal Three in One:  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn King.

**\*INVOCATION**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE**.....JOY HAS DAWNED

WORDS & MUSIC BY KEITH GETTY AND STUART TOWNEND

Joy has dawned upon the world, Promised from creation—  
God's salvation now unfurled, Hope for ev'ry nation.  
Not with fanfares from above, Not with scenes of glory,  
But a humble gift of love—Jesus born of Mary.

Sounds of wonder fill the sky With the songs of angels  
As the mighty Prince of Life Shelters in a stable.  
Hands that set each star in place,  
Shaped the earth in darkness,  
Cling now to a mother's breast, Vuln'erable and helpless.

Shepherds bow before the Lamb, Gazing at the glory;  
Gifts of men from distant lands Prophecy the story.  
Gold—a King is born today, Incense—God is with us,  
Myrrh—His death will make a way,  
And by His blood He'll win us.

Son of Adam, Son of heaven, Given as a ransom;  
Reconciling God and man, Christ, our mighty champion!  
What a Savior! What a Friend! What a glorious myst'ry!  
Once a babe in Bethlehem, Now the Lord of hist'ry."

**SCRIPTURE READING**.....2 SAMUEL 13

**HYMN OF ADORATION** .....IT CAME UPON  
THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR

It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth  
To touch their harps of gold;  
"Peace on the earth, good-will to men,  
From heav'n's all-gracious King!"  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing.

Still thru the cloven skies they come  
With peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heav'nly music floats  
O'er all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
They bend on hov'ring wing,  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds  
The blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load,  
Whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way  
With painful steps and slow,  
Look now! for glad and golden hours  
Come swiftly on the wing:  
O rest beside the weary road  
And hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hast'ning on,  
By prophets seen of old,  
When with the ever-circling years  
Shall come the time foretold,  
When the new heav'n and earth shall own  
The Prince of Peace their King,  
And the whole world give back the song  
Which now the angels sing.

## **CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN**

**Even as we ask you, Lord, for a meaningful and blessed Advent season,  
we sadly confess having done so little with so much.  
Forgive us Lord,  
for not bending the knee,  
for not reading your Word,  
for not searching our hearts,  
for not facing our sins.  
Forgive us according to your tender mercies, O God!  
Grant that when Christmas morning breaks for us  
this year,  
we may have a fresh sense of your presence  
and a renewed resolve to live to the praise of Christ's  
glory. Amen.**

Please silently confess your sin before the LORD.

## **\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON.....PSALM 103:10-12**

“He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us  
according to our iniquities.

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his  
steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from  
the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.”

## **\*HYMN OF ASSURANCE.....IMMANUEL**

WORDS & MUSIC: STUART TOWNEND

From the squalor of a borrowed stable  
By the Spirit and a virgin's faith  
To the anguish and the shame of scandal  
Came the Savior of the human race  
But the skies were filled  
With the praise of heav'n  
Shepherds listen as the angels tell  
Of the gift of God come down to man  
At the dawning of Immanuel

King of heaven now the friend of sinners  
Humble servant in the Father's hands  
Filled with power and the Holy Spirit  
Filled with mercy for the broken man  
Yes He walked my road and He felt my pain  
Joys and sorrows that I know so well  
Yet His righteous steps give me hope again  
I will follow my Immanuel.

Through the kisses of a friend's betrayal  
He was lifted on a cruel cross  
He was punished for a world's transgressions  
He was suffering to save the lost  
He fights for breath He fights for me  
Loosing sinners from the claims of hell  
And with a shout our souls are free  
Death defeated by Immanuel

Now He's standing in the place of honor  
Crowned with glory on the highest throne  
Interceding for His own beloved  
'Til His Father calls to bring them home  
Then the skies will part as the trumpet sounds  
Hope of heaven or the fear of hell  
But the bride will run to her lover's arms  
Giving glory to Immanuel

**HYMN OF PREPARATION** .....O HOLY NIGHT

ORIGINAL WORDS (V. 1) BY PLACIDE CAPPEAU. MUSIC BY ADOLPHE C. ADAMS

ADDITIONAL WORDS (V. 2-3) BY KEVIN HARTNETT

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining,  
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.  
Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!

Humbly He lay, Creator come as creature,  
Born on the floor of a hay-scattered stall.  
True Son of God, yet bearing human feature,  
He entered earth to reverse Adam's fall.  
In towering grace, He laid aside His glory,

And in our place, was sacrificed for sin.  
Fall on your knees! O hear the gospel story!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!

Come then to Him Who lies within the manger,  
With joyful shepherds, proclaim Him as Lord.  
Let not the Promised Son remain a stranger;  
In reverent worship, make Christ your Adored.  
Eternal life is theirs who would receive Him;  
With grace and peace, their lives He will adorn.  
Fall on your knees! Receive the Gift of heaven!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born  
O night, O holy night when Christ was born

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**SHEPHERDING PRAYER**.....RE STEVE HAWLEY

**SERMON**.....SORROW & JOY

PSALM 30:5

For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime.  
Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

PSALM 126:5-6

Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy! He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.

ISAIAH 9:1-3

But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

## SERMON NOTES

### SORROW & JOY

**(1) WHERE WE SEE THIS RELATIONSHIP**

**(2) WHY WE SEE THIS RELATIONSHIP**

**(3) WHY IT'S SO IMPORTANT WE SEE THIS RELATIONSHIP**

**\*HYMN OF RESPONSE** .....GOD REST YOU MERRY,  
GENTLEMEN

EIGHTEENTH CENTURY ENGLISH CAROL

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,  
remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day,  
to save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray;

*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

From God our heav'nly Father, a blessed angel came;  
and unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same:  
how that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.

"Fear not, then," said the angel, "let nothing you affright;  
this day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,  
to free all those who trust in him  
from Satan's pow'r and might."

The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind,  
and left their flocks a-feeding, in tempest, storm, and wind;  
and went to Bethlehem straight-way, the Son of God to find.

**\*BENEDICTION**

**REMEMBERING IN PRAYER THIS WEEK**

**Ministry Partners:** Phil & Wendy Stogner; raising support to serve with MTW and the Free Church of Scotland

**Our Troops:** pray for our troops and their chaplains around the world

**Church of the week:** Oakbrook Community PCA, Summerville; Mark Turner, pastor

**TRINITY FAMILY**

**Sarah Hutto:** hospitalized with bacterial heart infection

**Melonie Anderson:** recovery from sinus surgery

**Frank Myers:** recovery from knee replacement surgery

**Jerry Smith:** pray for his blood pressure to be regulated, for continued memory recovery and improved physical abilities.

**Linda Wactor:** wisdom for doctors in managing her pain

**Claudia Wilkes:** recovering from ankle surgery

**Lawton Porter:** ongoing therapy, healing for foot

**Linda Wells:** neuropathy, improved stamina

**Christie Churchwell:** relief from headaches