



Joy
3rd Sunday of Advent

WHITNEY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
December 13, 2020 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Christina Thompson

Welcome

Welcome to worship today. I am Rev. Christina Thompson and I am pastor here at Whitney UMC. Today we are celebrating the third Sunday of Advent, preparing our hearts for Christmas and the coming of the Christ Child. This Christ Child is the light of world that has come down into our world to bring us joy.

Lighting the candle

In this season of Advent as we wait the coming of the Christ child, I invite you to light your candle as a reminder that Christ comes as the light of the world.

Call to Worship

Leader: The Promised One of God brings good news to the oppressed and binds up the brokenhearted.

People: We are witnesses to the light of Christ!

Leader: The Promised One of God proclaims liberty to captives and release to prisoners.

People: We are witnesses to the light of Christ!

Leader: The Promised One of God comforts all who mourn and gives a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

People: We are witnesses to the light of Christ!

Leader: The promised One of God helps us to rejoice always, and praying without ceasing,

People: We are witnesses to the light of Christ!

Advent Wreath

Third Sunday in Advent

Lighting the Advent Wreath is part of our tradition to help us count the Sundays before Christmas. We light one candle for each Sunday in Advent. It is also part of our church tradition to have families light the candles. We will continue with this tradition even as we are online. Today, the Thompson, Wachi, Fridel Family, will light our wreath today.

Read

Isaiah 35:10

¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Light three candles including the pink one if your set has it.

Reader: We light this candle as a symbol of Christ our joy.

May the joyful promise of your presence, O God, make us rejoice in our hope of Salvation. O come; O come Emmanuel.

People: O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Opening Song

Andy & Svetlana Maddox

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus 196

Verse 1

Come Thou long expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free
From our fears and sins release us
Let us find our rest in Thee
Israel's strength and consolation
Hope of all the earth Thou art

Dear desire of every nation
Joy of every longing heart

Verse 2

Born Thy people to deliver
Born a child and yet a King
Born to reign in us forever
Now Thy gracious Kingdom bring
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone
By Thine all sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne

CCLI Song # 31999

Charles Wesley | Rowland Hugh Prichard

© Words: Public Domain

Music: Public Domain

For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com

CCLI License # 3183399

Streaming License # 20112113

Opening Prayer

O Holy one, giver of life and light, open our hearts and minds as we worship you on this third Sunday of Advent. May we experience the joy that comes from you and from the gift of your son, whom we are waiting for. May we feel and know you are present with us as we worship today. Amen

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, you love justice;
why, then, do we persist in wrongdoing
and every form of evil?
You have given us the gift of your Spirit;
why, then, do we quench the Spirit among us?
You have given us the words of the prophets
and the Word himself;
why, then, do we despise and ignore
what we have heard from you?
You have sent the light into the world;
why, then, have we loved darkness rather than light?
Forgive us. Restore us.
Till and tend us as your garden
until righteousness and praise spring up,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.
Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

In Jesus Christ, the Lord has done great things for us!
Even if we have gone out in tears,
God brings us home shouting for joy.
Thanks be to God: we are forgiven!

Children's Moment

Scripture

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Sermon

Rev Christina Thompson

Light of the World Comes Down into Darkness like a Spotlight

There are not a lot of songs about spotlights, but there is a great song about Jesus as our Lighthouse. The light of a light house serves as a navigational aid and mark dangerous coastlines and guides boats safely to shore. As our lighthouse, Christ also guides us safely through the doubts and struggles of our lives and is our peace in our troubled sea.

Song

Six Ways to Sunday (Band)

My Lighthouse

CCLI Song # 7002032

Chris Llewellyn | Gareth Gilkeson

© 2013 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com

CCLI License # 3183399

Streaming License # 20112113

Verse 1

In my wrestling, and in my doubts
In my failures, You won't walk out
Your great love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled sea
You are the peace in my troubled sea.

Verse 2

In the silence, You won't let go,
In the questions, Your truth will hold.
Your great love will lead me through.
You are the peace in my troubled sea
You are the peace in my troubled sea.

Chorus

My Light-house, my Light-house,
Shining in the darkness, I will follow You.
My Light-house, my Light-house
I will trust the promise, You will carry me.
Safe to shore, safe to shore
Safe to shore, safe to shore

Verse 3

I won't fear what tomorrow brings
With each morning, I'll rise and sing
My God's love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled sea
You are the peace in my troubled sea.

Chorus

Bridge (x4)

Fire before us, You're the brightest
You will lead us through the storms

Chorus

Pastoral Prayer

God who restores,
you have done great things for us and we rejoice!
So often you have filled us with laughter,
even turning tears of sadness into shouts of joy.
You send prophets, who point the way to justice
and show the way to you.
We thank you for sending good news to us
and repairing so much that we have devastated.

O God—bring us your light.

In this season of light,
we lift up in prayer so many who wait in darkness:
people oppressed by poverty and discrimination,
by political upheaval or dangerous rulers;
people imprisoned wrongly
and also those imprisoned justly.

O God—bring us your light.

Right what is wrong among us and in us
and restore us to you,
to others,
to ourselves.

Make the brokenhearted whole again;
comfort those who mourn;
repair our ruined cities.

O God—bring us your light.

In all the jostling and jingling of these days,
do not let us lose sight of you
or those whom you especially came to serve:
people who are in need of healing,
people who are overlooked or underserved,
the ones who are lost,
and the ones we have made to feel little and least.

O God—bring us your light.

Light of the world,
live among us always,
full of grace and truth. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Rev. Dewey Knowles

Offering

At this time of year,
the abundance of some and the needs of so many
stand in marked contrast.
As we bring now our tithes and offerings,
may Christ's heart rejoice
and the needs of others be tended.

The ways to give are listed there on your screen. You can mail in a check to the church or give electronically through our website. We are also collecting an advent offering that will be split evenly between Whitney's Good Samaritan Fund, Interfaith Sanctuary, UMCOR and Whitney Elementary School. You can contribute to this second mile giving, by writing a check to the church marked Advent giving, or on the website—use the additional principal donate button.

Let us pray over the offerings that will be collected.

Gracious God,
teach us to give thanks in all circumstances,
for you are always with us.
Thank you for the privilege
of sharing what we have with others,
of giving ourselves away in love,
and of receiving the gifts that others share with us.
With our whole being,
spirit and soul and body,
we rejoice in you.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

On this third Sunday of Advent—Joy Sunday, let's us sing
together Joy to the World.

Closing Song

Andy & Svetlana Maddox

Joy to the World #246 v. 1, 2, 4

CCLI Song # 24016

George Frideric Handel | Isaac Watts

© Words: Public Domain

Music: Public Domain

For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com

CCLI License # 3183399

Streaming License #20112113

Verse 1

Joy to the world the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and heaven and nature sing

Verse 2

Joy to the world the Savior reigns
Let all their songs employ
While fields and floods
Rocks hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat repeat the sounding joy

Verse 4

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love
And wonders wonders of His love

Sending Forth

Rejoice always.
Pray without ceasing
Witness to the light of Christ
so that all might believe through him.

Passing the Peace

May the Peace of the coming Christ be with you,
And also with you

Invitation to next week

I invite you to join us next week as we celebrate the fourth Sunday in the season of Advent, preparing our hearts for Christmas. We are using the Theme Light of the World and next week we will look at walking the way of love.

After worship, you are invited to join us for fellowship time on Zoom. The link to join us is in the email you received with the links to this service. There are also instructions on this screen. We will gather about 10:45.

You are also invited to join us on our Facebook Group Whitney United Methodist church group to chat about the service. You can join the conversation anytime.

There are many ways to connect with us even as we are physically distancing.

Remember our radio program broadcasts Reach Out and Trust on KBXL 94.1 FM on Sunday morning at 7:30 am and 11:30 am. Today my sermon from the First Sunday of Advent will be broadcast. Next week is my sermon from the 2nd Sunday of Advent.

May God be with us until we meet again.