Order of Worship

**December 17, 2023**

**Third Sunday of Advent: JOY**

*To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest; to all who are sad and long for comfort;*

*to all who struggle and desire victory; to all who sin and need a Savior; to all who are strangers and want friendship; to all who hunger and thirst for something real and lasting; and to all who come here, this church opens wide her doors and offers welcome to you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

**Prelude** (*Please silence cell phones at this time*)

**Welcoming Songs:  *“Go Tell It on the Mountain”***

**Welcome and Greeting**\*

**Advent Reading and Lighting of the Advent JOY Candle:**

*Donna Brown and Dee Frank*

**Choir: “Birthday Of A King”**

**Call to Worship: (***from Luke 1.46-55) Elder Sondra Jester, Liturgist*

Liturgist: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior . . . for He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name.

**People: And His mercy is for those who fear Him from generation to generation . . . He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to His offspring forever.**

**Opening Hymn: *#278 “Angels We Have Heard on High” (verses 1,2,3)***

**Advent Prayer:** *Pastor Dustin*

Dear Heavenly Father,

 Help me to hear your voice.

 Send your Presence to me once again.

 Give me the courage to accept being your beloved.

 Give me courage to choose joy.

 I need you now this Christmas season.

 Be born in me again. Today.

 In Jesus' name I pray…

 Lord, hear our prayers.

**Private Confession and Musical Interlude**

**Words of Assurance and Pardon of the Gospel** *Marilyn List, Liturgist*

Liturgist:

*In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1.4-5)*

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

**Congregational Singing: *#271 “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee” (verses 1,2)***

 ***#259 “Angels From the Realms of Glory” (verses 1,2 only)***

**Teaching Moment:**

“Joy FULL Joy FULL, We Adore Thee”

*Pastor Dustin*

**Pastoral Prayer and Lord’s Prayer**

***Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.***

**Offering and Offertory**

*(You are welcome to place your offering at the plates at this time,*

 *or one of the plates as you leave Worship, which*

*are located near the exits. You may also give online. God bless you!)*

**Doxology**

**Offertory Prayer to Thank God and Bless the Givers**

**Worship Through Music *“Joy to the World”***

**Prayer for the World and those in Need.**

**\*\*\*Announcements**

 *-Generosity/Giving*

 *-Fellowship Time*

 *-Opportunities to Serve this church: Sound booth, projector and screen, children ministry*

 *-Congregational Meeting TODAY!*

 **Cookies and Coffee will be served after Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

**Benediction**