



COUNTRYSIDE TRINITY CHURCH

December 14, 2025
3rd Week of Advent-JOY

Pre-Service Music

Noah Davis

Welcome and Announcements

Lori Halase, Liturgist

Mission Point

Green Committee

Prelude

Noah Davis

Choir Introit

CTC Choir

Call to Worship

Liturgist

Leader: Soon parched lands will blossom into life

All: and burst into joyful song—very soon.

Leader: Say to those who are drowning in fear,

All: "Take courage! Here is God, coming to save you."

Leader: Soon every creature will have what it needs in abundance.

**All: All peoples of all dis/abilities and ages
will shout for joy in freedom—very soon.**

Leader: A highway stretches heavenward, smooth and level.

All: All may walk or roll there unimpeded.

Leader: Soon happiness and joy will overwhelm us!

All: Grief and groaning will flee for good—very soon. Amen.

Opening Prayer

Liturgist

Subversive God, you revel in
reversing human hierarchies.

Inspire us to sing with teenage Mary
of tyrants toppled; and the last made first.

Ignite our hearts
until we truly understand what this means.

Embolden us to risk everything for the chance
to serve as midwives to your new creation,
so that, with Mary, our spirits will rejoice
in God our Savior—Jesus Christ her son—
and magnify Christ's love in all we do. **Amen.**



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Choir Light Three Candles

Advent Candle Lighting

Week Three: Joy

A. Children of God, what are we waiting for?

We wait for joy that cannot be stolen,
joy that wells up, even in wilderness places.

We wait for laughter to ring out in mourning,
for songs of gladness to rise in broken streets.

We wait ... for joy that is more than happiness,
to rejoice in God's unshakable love.

B. Today we light three candles.

Hope still shines, peace still glows,
and now joy joins the chorus of light.

Their glow reminds us that Christ is coming,
filling our hearts with a delight no darkness can quench.

C. We call this candle Hope. *(Light the first candle.)*

We call this candle Peace. *(Light the second candle.)*

We call this candle Joy. *(Light the third candle.)*

D. O Giver of life, you turn mourning into dancing.

You surprise us with beauty in unlikely places.

Joy is your gift and an invitation

to rejoice always, to pray without ceasing,

to give thanks in all things.

May we carry this joy like a lantern,
shining steadily through the waiting.

E. Hear the witness of the apostle Paul:

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

Let your gentleness be known to everyone.

The Lord is near" (Philippians 4:4-5).

F. We delight in the joy of your presence,

which no hardship can steal away.

Come, Lord Jesus, and make joy our strength.



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*** Opening Hymn**

"To God Be the Glory" #634 GTG

Congregation

Call to Confession

Liturgist

The life of faith is not only about being faithful to God.
It is knowing that God is faithful to us.
Trusting that God will never turn away from us,
let us tell the truth about our lives.

*** Prayer of Confession**

Congregation

**Magnificent God, it is easy to rejoice at
the wilderness bursting into bloom
and the hungry being filled with good things.
We may not want the powerful to be brought
down or the rich to be sent away empty.
We know that sometimes, we are the powerful.
Sometimes, we are the rich. Sometimes we are
the ones with privilege, Ignoring and harming
those you would lift up. Forgive us, humble us,
and refocus us, that we may follow your way
of life and truth.**

*** Time of Silence for Personal Prayers of Confession**

*** Assurance of Pardon**

Liturgist

There is nothing and no one
That is too far gone for God to redeem.
There is no land too parched
that God cannot make streams of living water flow.
Beloved, we are forgiven!

Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

*** Responding to Grace**

"Gloria" from Angels We Have Heard on High

Congregation

Time With Young Disciples

Rev. Nathaniel Asperger



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Prayer for Illumination

Liturgist

Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit
prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word,
so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

1st Scripture Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10

The desert and the dry ground will be glad.

The dry places will be full of joy.

Flowers will grow there.

Like the first crocus in the spring,
the desert will bloom with flowers.

It will be very glad and shout for joy.

The glorious beauty of Lebanon will be given to it.

It will be as beautiful as the rich lands
of Carmel and Sharon.

Everyone will see the glory of the Lord.

They will see the beauty of our God.

Strengthen the hands of those who are weak.

Help those whose knees give way.

Say to those whose hearts are afraid,

"Be strong and do not fear.

Your God will come.

He will pay your enemies back.

He will come to save you."

Then the eyes of those who are blind will be opened.

The ears of those who can't hear will be unplugged.

Those who can't walk will leap like a deer.

And those who can't speak will shout for joy.

Water will pour out in dry places.

Streams will flow in the desert.

The burning sand will become a pool of water.

The thirsty ground will become bubbling springs.

In the places where wild dogs once lay down,

tall grass and papyrus will grow.



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A wide road will go through the land.
It will be called the Way of Holiness.
Only those who lead a holy life can use it.
"Unclean" and foolish people can't walk on it.
No lions will use it.
No hungry wild animals will be on it.
None of them will be there.
Only people who have been set free will walk on it.
Those the Lord has saved will return to their land.
They will sing as they enter the city of Zion.
Joy that lasts forever will be
like beautiful crowns on their heads.
They will be filled with gladness and joy.
Sorrow and sighing will be gone.

2nd Scripture Reading

Psalm 145:5-10

They speak about your glorious majesty.
I will spend time thinking about your wonderful deeds.
They speak about the powerful and wonderful things you do.
I will talk about the great things you have done.
They celebrate your great goodness.
They sing for joy about your holy acts.

The Lord is gracious, kind and tender.
He is slow to get angry and full of love.
The Lord is good to all. He shows deep concern for everything he has made.
Lord, all your works praise you.
Your faithful people praise you. This is The Word of the Lord. **Thanks Be to God.**

Choir Anthem

CTC Choir

Epistle Reading

James 5:7-10

Brothers and sisters, be patient until the Lord comes. See how the farmer waits for the land to produce its rich crop. See how patient the farmer is for the fall and spring rains. You too must be patient. You must remain strong. The Lord will soon come back. Brothers and sisters, don't find fault with one another. If you do, you will be judged. And the Judge is standing at the door! Brothers and sisters, think about the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. They are an example of how to be patient when you suffer.



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Gospel Lesson

Luke 1:46-55

Mary said,

"My soul gives glory to the Lord.

My spirit delights in God my Savior.

He has taken note of me

even though I am not considered important.

From now on all people will call me blessed.

The Mighty One has done great things for me.

His name is holy.

He shows his mercy to those who have respect for him,

from parent to child down through the years.

He has done mighty things with his powerful arm.

He has scattered those who are proud in their deepest thoughts.

He has brought down rulers from their thrones.

But he has lifted up people who are not considered important.

He has filled with good things those who are hungry.

But he has sent away empty those who are rich.

He has helped the people of Israel, who serve him.

He has always remembered to be kind

to Abraham and his children down through the years.

He has done it just as he promised to our people of long ago."

This is The Word of the Lord. **Thanks Be To God.**

Sermon

"Patient Joy"

Rev. Nathaniel Asperger

Music Meditation

Noah Davis

*** Sermon Hymn**

"Oh Little Town of Bethlehem" 121 GTG

Congregation

Joys & Concerns

Call to Offering

Rev. Nathaniel Asperger

*** Doxology**

Congregation

*** Closing Hymn**

Hark the Herald Angels sing" 119 GTG

Congregation

*** Charge, Benediction**

Rev. Nathaniel Asperger

Postlude

"He Came Down" #137 GTG

Noah Davis

Verse 3 Only



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ADORATION

634 To God Be the Glory

1 To God be the glo - ry; great things he has done!
2 Great things he has taught us; great things he has done,

So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
and great our re - joic - ing through Je - sus the Son;

who yield - ed his life an a - tone - ment for sin,
but pur - er and high - er and great - er will be

and o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.
our won - der, our trans - port, when Je - sus we see.

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This American gospel song became popular in England in the late 19th century, then returned to this country in the mid-20th century with the Billy Graham crusades. Its continuing popularity may well be due to the freedom from subjective considerations in its praise of God.

TEXT: Fanny Jane Crosby, 1875
MUSIC: William Howard Doane, 1875

TO GOD BE THE GLORY
11.11.11 with refrain



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Refrain

Glo - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo -

REPEAT

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JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

121 O Little Town of Bethlehem

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y and, gath - ered all a - bove,
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by.
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light;
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
O come to us; a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

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Though he was famed during his lifetime as a great preacher, no sermon Phillips Brooks ever preached has been heard or read by as many people as have sung this carol he wrote in December 1868 for the Sunday School children of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Philadelphia.

TEXT: Phillips Brooks, 1868
MUSIC: Lewis Henry Redner, 1868

ST. LOUIS
8.6.8.6.7.6.8.6
(alternate tune: FOREST GREEN)



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JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king.
2 Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of the vir-gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri-umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car - nate de - i - ty,
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el.
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Brought together in the mid-19th century, the text and tune of this familiar carol began in quite different forms. The text had ten stanzas and began, "Hark, how all the welkin rings." The tune was created for a festival celebrating Gutenberg's introduction of moveable type.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.
MUSIC: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; arr. William Hayman Cummings, 1855

MENDELSSOHN
7.7.7.7.D with refrain

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HE CAME DOWN

GTG # 137 – Verse Three

**He came down that we may have peace;
He came down that we may have peace;
He came down that we may have peace;
Hal-le-lu-jah forevermore.**

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