



THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

for December 13, 2020

Third Sunday of Advent

“Raise your voice... do not be afraid.” — The Messenger

ADVENT 3

“I Believe in the Sun: Ode to Joy”

Prelude

Patapan
Kathy Gross, flute
Ji Hye Jung, piano
Aaron Bartlett, drum

BURGUNDIAN CAROL, arr. Lloyd Larson

Welcome

Rev. Pam Cochrane

Crossing the Threshold

This week, we turn to Luke’s writing, which is an account in two acts: the Gospel biography of Jesus and then the story of the early church - the “Jesus Community.” Whether you were a Jew or Gentile in those days, deciding to become a part of this illegal early Christian movement could bring punishment for your allegiance. Surely the message in both Luke and Isaiah that the downcast, lowly, and oppressed would rise up is a welcome and inspirational account. Like the Jewish exiled people of Isaiah’s time and the like the early Christians, we also sometimes wonder where God is in our suffering. We long for hear the promise that a reason for joyful praise is the good news on the way!

*I believe in the light, I believe in the light
That has come, that has come and is coming
We see the star rising
We hear the glad tidings
We Know we are not alone*

Opening Prayer

Holy One, we thank you for the glimpses we catch of your gift of the depths of joy. Even in the midst of fear, of challenge, of struggle - even when we are not sure of your presence, ignite the flame of joy within us,

People: that we might glow with its brilliance from the inside out.

Pastor: Help us face the silence of unknowing and embrace it as the pregnant pause before joyful new beginnings. Amen.

You are invited to light your Advent Candle of Joy at this time.

Hymn

When God Is A Child words by Brian Wren; music by Joan C. Fogg
Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,
Telling the world that the Savior is born.

CHORUS: When God is a child there’s joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong, and none shall be afraid.

Let us join our voices in singing the Opening Hymn

Hymn

Prepare Our Hearts

Rev. Dr. Charles N. Gross

Prepare our hearts this season, to light each darkness way;
Behold we now God's promise, a dawning for our day.
Your son of hope for shining, declare our Advent praise.
Impart your hope as now we wait, a weary world to raise.

All highest peace and glory, we need you, Lord of life,
To guide us in thy wisdom, to save us in our strife.
Your promise ever bold and new, in you we dare believe;
Your kingdom come, O Prince of Peace, prepare us to receive.

The promised gift we worship, to us a love was sent;
Continue now your promise, Emmanuel's Advent.
Again within this season, prepare our hearts for birth;
May love be now our offering, our best gift here on earth.

In joy abounds our Advent faith, built on an empty tomb;
The Christ-Child enters all hearts prepared to make him room.
Prepare our hearts this season, to light each darkness way;
Your promise may we now behold, to dawn upon our day.

Children's Time to Shine

This Little Light of Mine

Isaiah Reading—Isaiah 57:14-19

Special Music

Angels' Carol
Kathy Gross, flute
Ji Hye Jung, piano

John Rutter

Gospel Reading—Luke 1:1-4, 26-56

Message

“Ode to Joy”

Rev. Pam Cochrane

We Respond—*Litany of Belief*

In times when humanity disappoints,
perhaps when even our own thoughts and behaviors disappoint,
it is an important act to call out, name and claim, the consequences of our wrongs. And in times of
distress, it is a prophetic act to call out,
name and claim, our belief in peace for the world.

Hear these statements of belief from siblings in faith:

Voice 1: I believe that we have sometimes been silent in the face of injustice AND

Voice 2: I believe that we are capable of raising our voices and insisting on goodness for all.

Voice 1: I believe we have been afraid of feeling deeply, making our joy small AND

Voice 2: I believe that the deep joy of community can always be present, even in hard times.

Voice 1: I believe that sometimes we wonder if we can make a difference AND

Voice 2: I believe that small acts of kindness and help do make a real difference.

Voice 1: We believe, even when we are discouraged.

All: We believe, that when we are discouraged, raising our voices for justice will offer us joy!

Prayers in the Stillness

*Meet me in the stillness, Lord Be the air I breathe
Meet me in the stillness, Lord Free me to receive*

Prayers of the People

Rev. Douglas Vooy's

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 today our daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever, Amen.**

Offering & Doxology

**Believe, with a hopeful heart!
Believe, and shine your light!
Believe, because the song we sing is sung for all!
Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his son.
And now let the weak say, "I am strong;"
let the poor say, "I am rich because of what our God has done for us." Believe!**

Benediction

We wait for justice
but we do not wait to work for change;
We wait for restored health
but we do not wait to work to heal;
We wait for wholeness
but we do not wait to work at binding brokenness;
We wait for peace
but we do not wait to work to eliminate hatred.
And so, my friends, like bells ringing out the news
that the light has dawned and shines on all people,
fill the night left by sadness with messages of peace.
Go into your lives humming the tunes that keep that peace alive in you and that spur you on in your
work of justice and reconciliation.
Raise your voices and repeat after me...
"do not be afraid!" "do not be afraid!" Amen!

Postlude

HYMN TO JOY
Ji Hye Jung, organ

arr. from Ludwig von Beethoven

*The altar flowers this Sunday are in loving memory of
Donald Wheeler
Given by his wife Arlene Wheeler and Family*

*The chancel basket flowers this Sunday are in loving memory of
my husband Lorne Hersey
Given by Jean Hersey and Family*

Announcements & Events

Calendar of Events

- Sunday, Dec 13 at 10am: *Third Sunday of Advent & Family Worship*
- Tuesday, Dec 15 at 6pm: *Prayer & Table on Zoom*
- Wednesday, Dec 16 at 12pm: *Conversation with the Pastors on Zoom*
- Thursday Dec 17 at 12pm: *Bible Study on Zoom*
- Thursday, Dec 17 at 7pm: *Film Discussion on Zoom*
- Sunday, Dec 20 at 10am: *Fourth Sunday of Advent Morning Worship*
- Tuesday, Dec 22 at 6pm: *Prayer & Table on Zoom*
- Wednesday, Dec 23 at 12pm: *Conversation with the Pastors on Zoom*
- Thursday Dec 24 at 12pm: *Bible Study on Zoom*
- Thursday, Dec 24 at 5pm: *Christmas Eve Family Worship*
- Thursday, Dec 24 at 11pm: *Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship*
- Sunday, Dec 27 at 10am: *First Sunday after Christmas Worship*

Email the Church Office or Pastor Pam for the Zoom meeting links:

info@maplestreetchurch.org

revpammsc@gmail.com



Christmas Donations to Memorial Gifts

This year, in lieu of pointsettias, we are accepting donations to the Memorial Gifts Fund in memory or in celebration of loved ones. Please make checks out to "Maple Street Church" and include in the check's memo or in an enclosed letter:

"Gift to the Memorial Fund"

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

Any questions, please call or email the Church Office: 978-774-4510; info@maplestreetchurch.org



World Service Christmas Tree Fund

Our Christmas Tree Fund provides a festive way for us to collect money for a needy organization in our community during Advent. This year it will be held outside with a live tree. **On Sunday, Dec 13th and on the 20th**, immediately after the worship service, drive to the church parking lot where members of the World Service Committee will help you hang your star on the tree and collect your donation. Cash and checks (made out to Maple Street Church) are both welcome! If you don't have a star to hang, we will have cards you can sign and hang. Plan to bring some cocoa or coffee and cookies to enjoy while we sing carols from our cars (windows up, so you'll have to sing loudly). The money raised this year will go to Beverly Bootstraps, who will use it to help individuals needing assistance paying their rent this year.



Documentary Film Discussions- Thursday, December 17 at 7pm on Zoom

Along with worship, we are invited to join in watching and discussing several films to accompany our Advent journey. Five documentaries all share the power of music in difficult times. Characters of hope emerge in each, affirming Mark's words "Look, I am sending my messenger before you, a voice shouting in the wilderness. And, in this case, a voice singing in the wilderness. You are invited to watch the films on your own but we will hold three discussion sessions on Thursday nights for adults. Email the Church Office for the Zoom meeting link: info@maplestreetchurch.org