



DOUGLAS UCC
A JUST WORLD FOR ALL

Order of Service for Sunday, December 12, 2021

Third Sunday of Advent: Joy!

***- stand if you wish to, and are able.**

Thank you for joining us today.

For Announcements, Birthdays, Anniversaries, and Prayer List, [visit this week's E-Pistle here](#), where you can also subscribe to receive it by email, if you like:

Prelude, *Come, O Long Expected Jesus*, Peter Black
(Please use this time for quiet reflection and preparation for worship)

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of Altar Candles & Ringing in the Hour

Let us recognize the light of the world within us and ring in the hour of worship.

Advent Candle Song

*A candle is burning, a candle of Joy, a candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.
Our hearts fill with wonder and eyes light and glow,
as Joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.*

Call to Worship (Isaiah 12, 2-6)

Today's Reader: Jerry Coates

One: Surely God is my refuge; I will trust and will not be afraid;

Many: For God is my strength and my might; God has become my rescue.

One: With joy, I draw water from the inner well of liberty.

Many: With joy, I give thanks to God and call upon God's name.

One: I sing praises to God, for God has done glorious things in me;

Many: Let this be known in all the earth. Make known God's deeds among the nations.

All: Let us shout aloud and sing with great joy;

Many: For great in our midst is the Holy One. Rejoice, for God is near.

***Opening Hymn, Joys Are Flowing Like a River, (Black New Century Hymnal No. 284)**
(Find Music at the end of this program)

Unison Prayer

Source of all light and love, today, on this third Sunday of Advent, we light a pink candle for joy. As we anticipate the Light of the World, draw us more deeply to this Season of Advent. Help us to claim joy daily, as those who are welcoming the Christ child. We light these candles as reminders of the everlasting joy of the Advent story. We pray in the name of the One who is the good news of great joy for all people. Amen.

Assurance of Grace and Peace

One: Peace be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Let us offer one another a sign of Peace.

***Passing the Peace** *Spirit, Fill Me*

*Spirit come and fill me, fill me with your peace,
fill me with your joy and your love.
Spirit come and show me, show me how to care,
show me how to share your light.
Help me give my hand to those in need,
let my heart be open to receive.
When we share your love, we can work together
to heal this broken world.
Spirit come and fill us, fill us with your peace,
fill us with your joy and your love,
Spirit come and show us, show us how to care,
show us how to share your light.*

Words of Integration & Guidance by Rev. Kathryn M. Matthew, UCC Pastor

There are undoubtedly many folks in our pews this week who are beginning to wonder about this whole season of Advent. The contrast between the tenor of our lectionary readings and the mood of the holidays is stark: the baby is already in the manger of many Nativity sets, the decorations are already hung, and Christmas carols are in the air. Why, then, is the church making us listen (two weeks in a row!) to stories about John the Baptist? This wide-eyed preacher in the wilderness boldly proclaimed a message of challenge and exhortation. In his day, the powers-that-be had arranged a world based on empire, with those at the top grabbing the lion's share of power and material wealth for themselves. However, it wasn't just the Roman Empire that experienced his wrath, but the religious institutions also felt the sting of John's rebuke, for things were all out-of-whack, they had gone awry, or, as Richard Swanson so evocatively puts it, the world was being held "upside-down" by the ones on top. John calls the people to prepare for what they had been waiting for all these years: that change was coming, that the Light was on its way. And, to prepare for its arrival, John gives the people simple instructions: "Don't hoard. Share with one another. Be fair. Don't fight. Be kind to one another." The heart of his message is that basic goodness and justice will knock the supports out from under every upside-down, oppressive structure and system that we've built. Many of us today are overwhelmed by the magnitude of world events which seem as large and powerful to us as the Roman Empire must have seemed to Jewish peasants. John's sermon about personal generosity and social justice should call each and every one of us today to prepare ourselves for the new world that is on its way. That is the hope that sustains us, the vision toward which we work, and the good news which we proclaim. Is it no wonder then that we live in joy, as well?

Look Forward!

The Words of Holy Scripture

One: A Reading of Scripture from Philippians 4:4-7

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Many: **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Lesson

One: The Holy Gospel according to Luke 3:7-18

Many: **Glory to you, O Christ.**

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Many: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Homily "John and Jesus," Rev. Salvatore Sapienza

Offering & Offertory "*Joy in My Heart*"
Pamela Chappell
Composer: Pamela Chappell

Rejoice! God is Near!

Joys & Concerns/Tibetan Prayer Bell

One: Thanks be to God!

Many: **Alleluia!**

One: O God,

Many: **Hear our prayer.**

***Doxology** *Give Thanks to the Lord*

*Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good
and God's mercy shall endure.
For God alone has done marv'lous things,
give thanks unto the Lord.
God made the earth and heaven
with a strong and mighty hand.
God has moved us to sing, proclaim this song!
Give thanks unto our God.*

***Celebration of Holy Communion**

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them up to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God.

Many: It is good to give God thanks & praise

***Creation's Praise** *Sanctus (Patriquin)*

*Holy holy holy,
God of power and might;
Heaven and earth are full,
are full of your glory:
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes,
who comes in God's name.
Hosanna in the high – est!*

Sharing of the Bread & Cup

Receive the Bread of Life. **Amen.**

The Cup of Love, the Drink of Compassion. **Amen.**

Light is On its Way!

***Prayer of Thanksgiving & the Lord's Prayer**

Our Mother/Father, always and everywhere, 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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.

Amen.

***Hymn of Sending** *Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates,*
(Black New Century Hymnal No. 117)
(Find Music at the end of this program)

***Benediction**

Postlude *Joyful Day,* Peter Black

Have a great week! Keep up with the Douglas UCC community
and the work of our service groups here:

www.douglasucc.org

<https://www.youtube.com/douglasucc>

<https://www.facebook.com/douglasucc>

<https://www.instagram.com/douglasucc>

Joys Are Flowing like a River

(Blessed Quietness)

Matt. 8:26; John 14:16; Ps. 46:4

Manie Payne Ferguson (b. 1850); alt.

1 Joys are flow-ing like a riv - er, since the Com - fort - er has
 2 Bring-ing life and health and glad-ness all a - round, this heaven-ly
 3 Like the rain that falls from heav-en, like the sun - light from the
 4 See, a fruit-ful field is grow-ing, bless-ed fruit of righ-teous -
 5 What a won - der - ful sal - va - tion, when we al - ways see Christ's

come; Christ a - bides with us for - ev - er, makes the
 Guest Ban-ished un - be - lief and sad - ness, changed our
 sky, So the Spir - it too is giv - en, com - ing
 ness; And the streams of life are flow - ing in the
 face, What a per - fect hab - i - ta - tion, what a

Refrain

trust - ing heart a home.
 • wea - ri - ness to rest.
 on us from on high. Bless-ed qui-et-ness, ho - ly
 lone - ly wil - der - ness.
 qui - et rest - ing place.

qui-et-ness, what as - sur - ance in my soul. On the

storm-y sea, Je-sus speaks to me, and the bil-lows cease to roll.

Manie Payne Ferguson, born in Ireland, was married to a Wesleyan evangelist who established several missions on England's west coast. Ferguson's hymns were published in Echoes from Beulah.

Tune: BLESSED QUIETNESS 8.7.8.7. with refrain
W. S. Marshall
Arr. J. Jefferson Cleveland
and Verolga Nix, 1981

Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

117

Georg Weissel, 1641

Ps. 24:7-10

Transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1865; alt.

- 1 Lift up your heads, O might-y gates; be-hold the glo-ri-ous Rul-er waits!
- 2 Fling wide the por-tals of your heart; make it a tem-ple, set a-part
- 3 Re-deem-er, come! I o-pen wide my heart to you; here, Christ, a-bide!
- 4 So come, my Sov-ereign; en-ter in! Let new and no-bler life be-gin;

The Sov-ereign One is draw-ing near; the Sav-ior of the world is here.
 From earth-ly use for heaven's em-ploy, a-dorned with prayer and love and joy.
 Let me your in-ner pres-ence feel; your grace and love in me re-veal.
 Your Ho-ly Spir-it guide us on, un-til the glo-ri-ous crown be won.