



Strathmore United Church

December 15, 2024

3rd Sunday of Advent

Greeting & Welcome:

L: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

P: and also, with you.

Based on 2 Cor. 13:13

Announcements:

🎵 **Centering song:** Hope is a Star – Verse 3 *VU #7

Advent Candle-Lighting:

L: On this third Sunday of Advent, we come with joy as a community of faith.

P: We watch, we wait, we wonder.

L: May we bask in the joyful moments that are ours when we take time to notice joy – in the beauty of nature, in the beauty of a single snowflake with its intricate, always-unique pattern, or in the many snowflakes that comprise the softly falling snow, or in the play and laughter of children.

P: We embrace joy as we anticipate the birth of Jesus, Mary's new boy.

L: As we light the third candle in our wreath, we take a moment to breath in the Spirit of joy.

L: Let us pray together:

P: God of joy, on this third Sunday of Advent, may we bask in the joy of the season, the joy we find in relationships, the joy of gathering in our community of faith and being with those we love, and the joy that awaits us in the coming of Jesus. Amen.

Written by Irma Nadeau: Gathering, Advent-Christmas-Epiphany 2024/25 page 73: Used with permission

🎵 **Song:** A Candle Is Burning – Verse 3 *VU # 6

Call to Worship:

L: Joy, in the midst of sadness – is such a thing possible?

P: We come weary but full of hope that this is true, full of love for one another and God.

L: Joy, even when things are hard, this joy we seek today.

P: Let us gather from the four winds seeking God-with-Us.

L: Let us pray for Emmanuel, for joy, for wisdom to find those glimmers of joy like stars in the night sky.

Written by Whitney Bruna; Gathering, Advent-Christmas-Epiphany 2024/25 page 29; Used with permission

Opening Prayer:

Written by Juanita Austin; Gathering, Advent-Christmas-Epiphany 2021-2022; page 32 Modified; Used with permission

Organ Solo: Star of the East – offered by Arlene Wahl

Story Time for all ages:

♪♪ Hymn: Just as I am (VS. 1; 3-4) *VU #508

Prayer of Confession:

L: Gracious God, Help us to leave behind the challenges at home and the horror of the headlines

P: To welcome the hope of Advent.

L: Help us to leave behind family conflicts and global warfare

P: To welcome the peace of Advent.

L: Help us to leave behind all that stifles and demeans

P: To welcome the joy of Advent.

L: Help us to leave behind selfishness and hatred

P: To welcome the love of Advent, know in Jesus the Christ.

Amen

Written by David Sparks; Gathering, Advent-Christmas-Epiphany 2019-2019; page 33 Modified; Used with permission

Words of Assurance:

L: The prophet Isaiah proclaimed:

P: With joy, you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

L: On that day, you will declare:

P: Give thanks to God.

L: Today, with joy, we draw water from the wells of salvation.

Today, we declare:

P: Give thanks to God for all God's goodness. We are a forgiven people.

Written by Robin Wardlaw; Gathering, Advent-Christmas-Epiphany 2024/25 page 32; Used with permission

♪♪ Duet: Sheep Fast Asleep by Laura Bakken & Arlene Wahl *VU #52

Before Hearing the Scriptures:

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Reading of Scripture: Isaiah 12:2-6, Luke 3: 7-18

L: A Word of God that is still speaking,


P: Thanks be to God.

Message:

 **Hymn:** On Jordan's Bank (Vs 1-3; 5) *VU #20

The Offering Invitation: *Feasting on the Word, Year C; page 24. Used with permission*

M&S Story:

 **Dedication:** Grant Us, God, the Grace of Giving *VU #540

Prayer of Dedication:

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Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer:

Feasting on the Word, Year C; pages 22-24. Used with permission

 **Hymn:** Joyful, Joyful We Adore You (Vs 1-3) *VU #232

Commissioning and Blessing:

Written by Jani Francis; Gathering, Advent-Christmas-Epiphany; 2021-2022 page 35; Modified; Used with permission

 **Response:** Go Now in Peace, Guided by the Light *MV #211

Passing the Peace of Christ

L: May the God of Peace go with you.

P: And also with you.

*Please join us for Coffee and Fellowship in the
Library after the service.*

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