



THOSE  
WHO *sow joy*  
DREAM  
*3<sup>RD</sup> Sunday in Advent*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 13, 2020

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LIGHT ONE CANDLE**

*You will be invited to light a candle in your home at the same time the candle in the sanctuary is lit. We will follow the lighting of our candles with this response:*

**May this light be an invitation to sow joy and may it be our invitation to be Advent people—people who dream. Amen.**

**CHORAL INTROIT**

*Gloria in Excelsis Deo*     adapt. R. Ringwald, R. Shaw

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Based on Psalm 126

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

**Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy;**

Then it was said among the nations, “The Lord has done great things for them.”

**The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.**

Restore our fortunes, O Lord.

**May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.**

Those who go out weeping, come home with shouts of joy.

**HYMN NO.464**

*Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*

*Joyful, joyful, we adore You, God of glory, Lord of love;*

*Hearts unfold like flow'rs before You, Op'ning to the sun above.*

*Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; Drive the gloom of doubt away;*

*Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day!*

*All Your works with joy surround You, Earth and heav'n reflect Your rays,*

*Stars and angels sing around You, Center of unbroken praise;*

*Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,*

*Chanting bird and flowing fountain, Call us to rejoice in thee.*

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

O Great God, with a sky full of stars and a world full of flowers,  
there should be no end to our joy. And yet, we let joy slip away like loose change.  
Instead of singing like Mary, or dancing like David, we pass by remarkable  
beauty and love most days, unfazed. Forgive us. Teach us the ways of children,  
who laugh and dance and sing as if joy is the very thing that keeps them alive.  
Then perhaps we can join them in sowing joy. Gratefully we pray, amen.

## **ANTHEM**

*O Magnum Mysterium*

Morten Lauridsen

*[English Translation: O great mystery and wonderful sacrament, that animals should see the  
new-born Lord lying in a manger! O blessed is the Virgin, whose womb was worthy to bear  
Christ the Lord. Hail Mary, full of grace: the Lord is with you. Blessed is the Virgin whose womb  
was worthy to bear Christ the Lord. Alleluia!]*

## **SCRIPTURE**

Luke 1:26-38

## **SERMON**

“The Greatest Miracle”

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Great Creator, we are in awe of you.

We will never know how you managed to dream up mountains and valleys, freckles,  
dimples, and curly hair, a cool morning mist, the change of seasons, or the magic of music.

Your greatness is beyond our reckoning. And because we are in awe of you,  
we believe we must follow Mary’s lead and allow our souls to sing.

We believe that the appropriate response to your goodness is gratitude,  
which looks like love for our neighbor, justice for the poor, food for the hungry,  
and joy that overflows. And even though we do not always believe in ourselves,  
we believe that our song is pleasing to you. We believe. Help our unbelief.

In Christ’s name we pray, amen.

## **PRAYER & THE 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.

## **HYMN NO.40 (v1&2)**

*Joy to the World*

*Joy to the world! The Lord is come: Let earth receive her King:  
Let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and heaven and nature sing.*

*Joy to the world! The Savior reigns: Let us our songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.*

## **BENEDICTION**

## **CHORAL RESPONSE**

## **POSTLUDE**

*Joy To the World*

G.F. Handel, arr. F. Bock