



CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

301 ROWE BOULEVARD – ANNAPOLIS, MD – WWW.CALUMC.ORG

DECEMBER 17, 2023 – 10:00 A.M.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Advent Carol

Hal H. Hopson

Calvary Ringers

THE GREETING & INVOCATION

Pastor: Clap your hands, all you people.

People: Shout to God with loud songs of joy! (Psalm 47:1)

INTROIT

Do You Hear What I Hear

arr by Douglas E Wagner

Calvary Ringers

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Stephany Clothier, *liturgist*

Liturgist: Love has come down to us this Advent Season.

People: Divine love which heals and transforms our lives.

With great joy, we receive that love and share it with others.

**We open our hearts to all God's children, the last, the least,
and the lost, as well as those who feel privileged.**

The Lord has done and continues to do great things for us.

**All: Praise be to God who loves us so much and who challenges us
to be people of joy in this darkened world. Rejoice!**

Let us worship God!

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

*OPENING HYMN

UMH 89

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

*MORNING PRAYER

Holy living light of God, you are our joyful presence. May your presence be real to us in this worship. Let this joy grow in our lives each day, so we can be a Present of Joy to others. Unwrap and open our hearts. Equip us here for the tasks you set before us. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

† *All may be seated.*

THE NEWS TO KNOW

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Trew Family
Chris, Rita, Cassidy, & Sean

In the Bleak Midwinter

Calvary Choir, vs 4

Reader: We unwrap a present on this third Sunday of Advent with great anticipation for the gift that God will reveal.

People: We open our hearts as we open the gift!

Reader: The promise of Joy is God's gift that we receive.

People: And what will we do with it?

Reader: The gift of joy is not the equivalent of happiness, but rather the deep conviction that we are called to be present in the work of bringing about "great things" – a better world for those who need it most.

People: We light this Candle of Joy as a sign that we will share our Presence with Joy in the world.

In the Bleak Midwinter

(Congregation joins singing)

UMH 221, vs 4

- *Worship Design Studio*

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Nancy Mills, *Interim Dir. of Discipleship*

Children are invited to come forward for a special message. Afterwards, all children are dismissed to Sunday School in Room 214/216 with Ms. Kathryn where parents may pick them up after worship.

ANTHEM

Prepare the Way of the Lord

Music by Benjamin Harlan

Calvary Choir

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING - ISAIAH 61:1-4, 10 (NRSV)

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, to provide for those who mourn in Zion, to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my whole being shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

*GOSPEL READING - LUKE 1:46-55 (NRSV)

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name; indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Liturgist: The Word of God for the people of God

People: Thanks be to God.

† *All may be seated.*

SERMON

Rev. Linda W. Motter

The Gift of Presence With Joy

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

HYMN OF RESPONSE

UMH 617 (vs 1,4, 5)

I Come With Joy

PASTORAL PRAYER *with* 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 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 forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

*All are invited to give of their morning offerings online at CALUMC.org, in the collection
black box in the Narthex, Venmo (Calvary UMC @calvaryumcannapolis) or US Postal Service
to support the work of Calvary United Methodist Church sharing God's love with the world.*

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

**Gracious God, thank you for the privilege of sharing what we have with others, of
giving ourselves away in love, and of receiving the gifts that others share with us.
With our whole being, spirit, soul, and body, we rejoice in you. Through Jesus Christ
our Lord. Amen.**

*DOXOLOGY

UMH 94

SENDING FORTH

*CLOSING HYMN

UMH 240

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

*THE BLESSING & BENEDICTION

**The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you
and give you peace. (Numbers 6:24-26)**

POSTLUDE

Carol of the Bells

arr by Douglas E Wagner

Calvary Ringers

The altar flowers are in loving memory of Louis S. Purnell from his wife, Rosemary Purnell.