



*Sunday, December 12, 2021*  
*Third Sunday of Advent*

**Prelude**

*In dulci jubilo*  
*Noel of the Birds*

arr. Peter Crisafulli  
Jacques Berthier

Shelley Gruskin, flute

**Lighting the Advent Candle of Joy**

Jojo Coffin-Langdon and children

One: We re-light the candles of *Hope* and *Love*, and today we light the candle of *Joy*, the third marker of our Advent journey. As we continue, may we travel with joy in our step. As we continue, God of journeys, fill us with joy.

Let us sing together our Advent song of joy.

***Light the Advent Candle***

The Faith We Sing #2090, verse 3

*Light the Advent Candle, three: think of heavenly harmony;  
Angels singing "Peace on Earth" at the blessed Savior's birth.  
Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;  
Candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.*

**Welcome and Announcements**

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

**Call to Worship**

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

One: We gather in preparation

All: **For good news is about to be proclaimed.**

One: We gather in expectation

All: **For joy is about to break forth in our midst.**

One: We gather in celebration

All: **For we are those people who have said "yes" to the manger, "yes" to the one incarnate for others, "yes" to the wholeness of God.**

**\*Hymn**

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

UM Hymnal #211, v. 1, 2, 6, 7

*Children may leave for Sunday School following the hymn*

**Morning Prayer**

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Unison Prayer: **Lord, a candle burns, the sign of joy that comes from heaven. God of joy, come to us again this Advent. May your joy live with us, burning as a light in our lives.**

Prayer of Concern and Celebration

Jesus' Prayer

Loving God, Sacred One, Blessed be your name. May your kingdom come, your dream arrive, your purpose prevail, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us the wrongs we have done, as we forgive those who have wronged us. Help us steer clear of temptation, and protect us from evil. We trust you in this, for the kingdom, its power and its beauty, are yours forever. Amen.

**Offering Our Gifts and Tithes**

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

**Offering Music** *Peace, Peace*

Rick and Sylvia Powell

Sanctuary Choir

*Peace, peace, peace on earth and good will to all.  
Now is the time for joy; Now is the time for love.  
Now let us all sing together of peace, peace, peace on earth.*

**Offering Prayer**

*The Nine Lessons and Carols*

*Thank you for holding applause until the end of the service.*

**First Lesson**

Reader: Ellen Hill

*The salvation of the Lord is coming. (Isaiah 52: 1, 7-8)*

**Carol**

*Wachet auf (Wake, Awake)*

J.S. Bach

Jenna Mattson, violin

**Second Lesson**

Reader: Ron Yardley

*The people who walk in darkness receive the promise of the Messiah. (Isaiah 9:2, 6-7)*

**Carol**

*"The People that Walked in Darkness" from Messiah*

G.F. Handel

Riley Hinnenkamp, bass solo

*The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light.  
And they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.*

**Third Lesson**

Reader: Tina Farrell

*Malachi foretells Christ's role as a purifier. (Malachi 3:1-4)*

**Carol**

*Is Your Heart Prepared for a King?*

Robert Lau

Sanctuary Choir

*In the quiet of the night, or in morning's early light, is your heart prepared for a King?  
Will you hear an angel sing? Will your own hosannas ring? Is your heart prepared for a King?*

*Wait! Watch! Pray for the One who brings hope to a wearied earth.  
Wait! Watch! Pray for the One who brings peace, who brings peace by his birth.*

*Can you see the shining star? Does it call you from afar? Is your heart prepared for a King?  
Is the babe of whom we sing born to be our God and King? Is your heart prepared for a King?*

**Fourth Lesson**

Reader: Mark Harvey

*An angel appears to Mary and announces that she will bear a holy child. (Luke 1:26-33)*

**Carol**

***To a Maid Engaged to Joseph***

Rusty Edwards

Sanctuary Choir; Brandon Veale and Andrea Flinner, soloists

*To a maid engaged to Joseph, the angel Gabriel came. "Fear not," the angel told her,  
I come to bring good news, good news I come to tell you, good news, I say, good news."*

*For you are highly favored by God the Lord of all, who even now is with you. You are on earth  
most blest, you are most blest, most blessed, God chose you, you are blest.*

*But Mary was most troubled to hear the angel's word. What was the angel saying? It troubled  
her to hear, to hear the angel's message, it troubled her to hear.*

*"Fear not, for God is with you, and you shall bear a child. His name shall be called Jesus, God's  
offspring from on high. And he shall reign forever, forever reign on high."*

*"How shall this be?" said Mary, "I am not yet a wife." The angel answered quickly, "The  
power of the Most High will come upon you shortly, your child will be God's child."*

*As Mary heard the angel, she wondered at his words. "Behold, I am your handmaid," she said  
unto her God. "So be it; I am ready according to your word."*

**Fifth Lesson**

Reader: Jeanne Carroll

*Mary sings of God taking action on behalf of the powerless. (Luke 1:46-55)*

**Congregational Carol**

***Canticle of the Turning***

(insert)

**Sixth Lesson**

Reader: Aaron Boyson

*St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus. (Luke 2:1, 3-7)*

**Carol**

***Lo, How a Rose/The Rose***

arr. Craig Hella Johnson

Sanctuary Choir; Mary Whitlock, soprano soloist

*Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming, From tender stem hath sprung.  
Some say love, it is a river that drowns the tender reed;  
Of Jesse's lineage coming, As men of old have sung.*

Some say love, it is a razor that leaves your soul to bleed;  
*It came a Flow'ret bright,*  
 Some say love, it is a hunger, an endless aching need;  
*Amid the cold of winter*  
 I say love, it is a flower, and you, its only seed.  
*When half-spent was the night.*  
 It's the heart afraid of breaking that never learns to dance;  
 It's the dream afraid of waking that never takes the chance;  
 It's the one who won't be taken who cannot seem to give;  
 And the soul afraid of dying that never learns to live.  
*This Flow'r, whose fragrance tender With sweetness fills the air*  
 When the night has been too lonely and the road has been too long;  
*Dispels with glorious splendor The darkness ev'rywhere.*  
 And you think that love is only for the lucky and the strong.  
*True Man, yet very God.*  
 Just remember in the winter far beneath the bitter snow,  
*From sin and death He saves us*  
 Lies the seed that with the sun's love, in the spring becomes the rose.  
*And lightens ev'ry load.*

### Seventh Lesson

Reader: Atley Collins

*Angels appear to shepherds in the fields and announce the birth of the Messiah. (Luke 2:8-14)*

### Carol

#### *While by My Sheep*

Hugo Jungst

Sanctuary Choir and Quartet

*While by my sheep we watched at night, glad tidings brought an angel bright.*  
*Refrain: How great my joy! Great my joy! Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!*  
*Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high! Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!*

*There shall be born, so he did say, in Bethlehem a child today.*  
*Refrain: How great my joy! Great my joy! Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!*  
*Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high! Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!*

*There shall the child lie in a stall, this child who shall redeem us all.*  
*Refrain: How great my joy! Great my joy! Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!*  
*Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high! Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!*

*Lord ever more to me be nigh, then shall my heart be filled with joy.*  
*Refrain: How great my joy! Great my joy! Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!*  
*Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high! Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!*

### Eighth Lesson

Reader: Geoffrey Bell

*Scholars from the East come seeking the Messiah and offer gifts to the baby Jesus. (Matthew 2:1-11)*

### Carol

#### *Greensleeves (What Child is This)*

arr. Peter Crisafulli

Shelley Gruskin, flute

**Ninth Lesson**

Reader: MaryAnne Korsch

*The Word of God becomes flesh and lives among us, full of grace and truth. (John 1:1-14)*

**Carol**

***On This Day Earth Shall Ring***

arr. Bryan Greer

Sanctuary Choir

*On this day earth shall ring with the song children sing  
to the Lord, Christ our King, born on earth to save us; him the father gave us.*

*His the doom, ours the mirth; when he came down to earth,  
Bethlehem saw his birth; ox and ass beside him from the cold would hide him.  
Refrain: Id-e-o-o-o, id-e-o-o-o, id-e-o gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*God's bright star, o'er his head, Wise Men three to him led;  
kneel they low by his bed, lay their gifts before him, praise him and adore him.  
Refrain: Id-e-o-o-o, id-e-o-o-o, id-e-o gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*On this day angels sing, with their song earth shall ring,  
praising Christ, heaven's King, born on earth to save us, peace and love he gave us.  
Refrain: Id-e-o-o-o, id-e-o-o-o, id-e-o gloria in excelsis Deo!*

**Prayer**

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

**\* Hymn**

***Hark the Herald Angels Sing***

UM Hymnal #240

**Benediction**

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

**Postlude**

***Toccata on "He Is Born"***

Denis Bédard

Velda Graham Bell, organ



Sanctuary Choir Director: Michael Goodlet-Meijer  
Instrumentalists: Velda Graham Bell, organ  
Cynthia Coffin-Langdon, guitar  
Shelley Gruskin, flute  
MaryAnne Korsch, piano  
Jenna Mattson, violin

Today's service is based on the well-known Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols that has been presented by the Choir of King's College in Cambridge, England, annually since 1918.

## Announcements



**Blue Christmas: A Special Service of Comfort.** If you are grieving or remembering someone special this holiday, you are warmly invited to attend a special service this afternoon at 4:00 pm in the Three Brothers Chapel. We will gather to experience God's spirit of healing in fellowship with others who have also experienced loss.

**Thank you** to everyone who has turned in an estimate of giving for 2022. If you haven't yet, please bring the card and your participation survey to the church office Monday-Friday 9am-3pm or mail them (FUMC, 230 E. Skyline Parkway, Duluth, MN 55811).

**Enjoy scones for the holidays.** The Carol M. Donahue Music Scholarship Committee will have scones for sale following worship today. Scone varieties: Orange Cranberry, Dark Chocolate Cranberry, Lemon Poppyseed – all \$15; White Chocolate Raspberry, \$17. Proceeds will go to the Carol M. Donahue Music Student Scholarship Fund of FUMC. Checks and monetary gifts can be made payable to the Music Scholarship Fund.

**Enjoy Holiday Music with FUMC Musicians**

**Sunday, Dec. 12 (3 pm) – Holiday Jubilations and Traditions**

Strikepoint joins the Arrowhead Chorale for their holiday concert in the Depot Great Hall (506 W. Michigan St., Duluth). This special event will celebrate the season with themes of light spanning 300 years. Strikepoint will also provide a musical prelude beginning 20 minutes before the start of the concert. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for students; available online at [www.arrowheadchorale.com/performances.php](http://www.arrowheadchorale.com/performances.php) or at the door.

**Sunday, Dec. 12 (7:00 pm) - Twin Ports Wind Orchestra's Holiday Concert**

Please join the Twin Ports Wind Orchestra Brass for a concert of inspiring seasonal favorites, warmth and good cheer. Held in our Sanctuary and conducted by First UMC's Dr. Mark Whitlock, the TPWO brass section will perform a variety of your favorite Christmas music. Free-will donations accepted.

**Christmas Eve Worship: Friday, December 24 at 4:00 pm and 10:00 pm.** Everyone looks forward to our meaningful Christmas Eve services each year. As always, we will have the chance to sing favorite Christmas carols, and both services will end with a beautiful candlelighting ceremony and the singing of "Silent Night." Pastor Jeanine will preach at both services. **The 4:00 pm service** will include a special Children's Message from Jojo Coffin-Langdon, our director of children's ministries, and the music will be led by Tapestry and our organist. This service will be livestreamed so you can enjoy it at any time during the evening. **At the 10:00 pm service,** music will be led by our Sanctuary Choir, Extollers (our reunion bell choir), various soloists, and our organist. This service may be enjoyed in-person only.

**Thank you** to Alex Flinner, Nick Gosen and the Livestream Team for making the online service possible.

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