

INVITATION AND GATHERING

WELCOME

CENTERING WORDS

Emmanuel, God is with us. God is in our midst. This is the promise of Advent. This is the reality of life in Christ. Emmanuel, God is with us.

Lighting of the Candles

Reader: We light the candle of JOY, remembering the Joy Jesus brings the world.

\*SCRIPTURE READING ..... Zephaniah 3:14-20

\* OPENING HYMN: # 2090 .....Light the Advent Candle (Vs. 3)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Surely God is in our midst.

People: God is our strength and our shield.

Leader: Christ is with us now.

People: Rejoice and give thanks for this gift!

\* Let us pray (Congregation):

Gather us in, Emmanuel, as we come to worship and rejoice together. Be with us now, as you have always been with us. Prepare our hearts to receive your presence and prepare our lives to produce the fruit of your justice and righteousness. Gather us in, Emmanuel, that we might be strengthened to go forth as your beloved children.

\* LET’S WORSHIP THE LORD WITH HYMNS:

# 64..... Holy, Holy, Holy! (vs 1 & 4)

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Congregation)

Strong Deliverer, bring us back to you when we wander afar. Gather us together when we scatter from one another. Deliver us from the sins that separate us from one another and from you. Nourish us with the springs of your saving grace and with your compassion, which never fails. Be our strength and shield, that we may proclaim your love, in our words and in our actions, with the courage of steadfast faith. In joy and thanksgiving, we pray. Amen.

\* LET’S WORSHIP THE LORD WITH HYMNS:

# 249..... There’s a Song in the Air (vs 1 & 2)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Shout and sing for joy, for God is indeed our salvation!

\*SCRIPTURE READING: ..... Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE WORD MADE FLESH: “There is JOY in the Lord”

\* RESPONSE TO THE WORD: # 89 .....Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee (vs 1&4)

CONGREGATION IN PRAYER: Joys and Concerns

\* PRAYER HYMN: # 2200 ..... O Lord, Hear My Prayer

CLOSING HYMN: # 246 ..... Joy to the World

\*DISMISSAL BLESSING

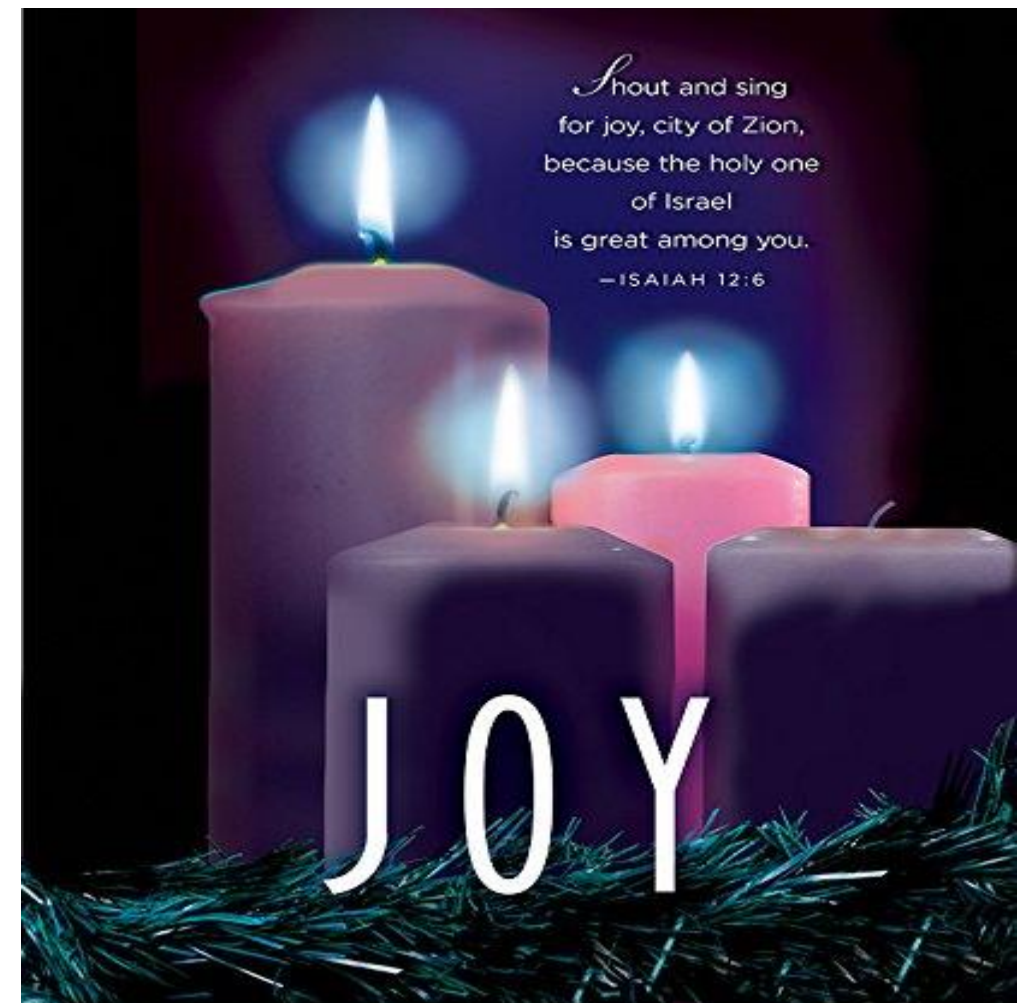
## 1<sup>st</sup> Scripture Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20 (NKJV)

<sup>14</sup> Sing, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! <sup>15</sup> The LORD has taken away your judgments, He has cast out your enemy. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall <sup>[a]</sup>see disaster no more. <sup>16</sup> In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Do not fear; Zion, let not your hands be weak. <sup>17</sup> The LORD your God in your midst, the Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet *you* with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing." <sup>18</sup> "I will gather those who sorrow over the appointed assembly, who are among you, *to whom* its reproach is a burden. <sup>19</sup> Behold, at that time I will deal with all who afflict you; I will save the lame, and gather those who were driven out; I will appoint them for praise and fame in every land where they were put to shame. <sup>20</sup> At that time I will bring you back, even at the time I gather you; for I will give you <sup>[b]</sup>fame and praise among all the peoples of the earth, when I return your captives before your eyes," says the LORD.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Scripture Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 (NKJV)

"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to <sup>[a]</sup>heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to *those who are* bound; <sup>2</sup> to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn, <sup>3</sup> to <sup>[b]</sup>console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified." <sup>4</sup> And they shall rebuild the old ruins, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the ruined cities, the desolations of many generations.

<sup>8</sup> "For I, the LORD, love justice; I hate robbery <sup>[a]</sup>for burnt offering; I will direct their work in truth, and will make with them an everlasting covenant. <sup>9</sup> Their descendants shall be known among the Gentiles, and their offspring among the people. All who see them shall acknowledge them, that they *are* the posterity *whom* the LORD has blessed." <sup>10</sup> I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful 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 ornaments, and as a bride adorns *herself* with her jewels. <sup>11</sup> For as the earth brings forth its bud, as the garden causes the things that are sown in it to spring forth, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.



December 13, 2020  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

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