

# THIRD OF SUNDAY ADVENT/CHRISTMAS - JOY DECEMBER 12, 2021

## WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Prelude

Welcome and Greeting in Jesus' Name                      The Rev. Dr. Ivan E. Greuter

\*Opening #179                      "Joy to the World"                      *ANTIOCH*

\*Call to Worship                      **THE JOY CANDLE**

Surely God is our salvation.

**As we wait for the Lord, we will trust and not be afraid.**

With joy we will draw water from the well of salvation.

**Give thanks to the Lord and make known his deeds among the nations!**

Sing praises to the Lord as we await his glory!

**Shout aloud and sing for joy!**

With excited anticipation we light the joy candle this week. We have joy because our salvation is at hand. The Holy One of Israel is coming!

**His well of salvation is full and plentiful, and we are filled with a joy which will be known throughout all of the earth.**

†Reading based on Isaiah 12:2-6, the Holy Bible, New International Version (NIV), © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2021 by Biblica, Inc. from Reformed Worship Number 141 (September 2021) © 2021 by Worship Ministries of the Christian Reformed Church. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

\*Song of Faith #59                      "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"                      *HYMN OF JOY*

\*Opening Prayer – God of Joy, may your Spirit renew in us the joy of our salvation. Lead us to share this joy with those around us. The light of this joy shines in a world full of darkness, so that all may see the path to the deep well of salvation. So, we proclaim the joyous name of Jesus today! Who lives and reigns with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever.

\*Songs of Praise                      "Light of the World"                      Worship Team

## WE HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD

Scripture Reader: Colleen Smith

The First Reading                      **Zephaniah 3:14-20**

The Second Reading                      **Philippians 4:4-7**

\*The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ                      **Luke 3:7-18**

Response "While by the Sheep We Watched at Night" *HOW GREAT OUR JOY*

Announcements & Presentation of Tithes, Gifts, and Donations - Collection plates are in the front and back of the sanctuary, and you can also give online.

**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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever.

Special Music                      "Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light"

Children's Sermon (Kids 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade and Younger can walk to Children's Church)

Prayer & Message                      "Are We Almost There Yet?"  
The Reverend Doctor Ivan E. Greuter, Senior Minister

## WE RESPOND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT IN FAITH & SERVICE

\*Invitation to Faith and Fellowship – If the Spirit of God is moving you to receive God's forgiving love in Jesus, calling you to be a follower of Jesus in the waters of baptism, or encouraging you to join this Christian Church, please come forward during this song.

\*Hymn #265                      "All Glory, Laud and Honor"                      *ST. THEODULPH*

\*Spoken Benediction

\*Postlude

## HOW TO BECOME A FULLY DEVOTED FOLLOWER OF JESUS

**GOOD NEWS!** God loves you and wants to rescue all people from the consequences of evil. The Bible teaches the way to become a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ:

1. **ADMIT** – Admit to God you have done wrong things (sinned) which have hurt God and others. Apologize to God and turn away from harmful behavior and start doing good things (See Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; 1 John 1:9; Acts 3:19).
2. **BELIEVE JESUS CHRIST DIED FOR YOU AND GOD HAS RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD** – Accept and trust that Jesus is God's one and only Son who died on the cross in your place and give God the credit for raising Jesus from the dead (See Romans 5:8; Acts 4:12; Acts 16:31a; John 3:16; 1 Peter 3:18; John 14:6).
3. **CONFESS JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR LORD** – Make a religious commitment to be a fully devoted follower of Jesus by trusting Him to be your Rescuer and Redeemer (Savior) and Ultimate Leader (Lord). (See Romans 10:9 and 10; Romans 10:13; Matthew 16:24; Luke 9:23)
4. **DEDICATE YOUR LIFE TO THE JESUS WAY** - Tell your family and friends about your new trust in Jesus Christ by coming to the front of the Sanctuary at the end of a worship service to publicly share your decision to be a follower of Jesus (Christian).

**HOW TO JOIN THIS CHRISTIAN CHURCH - COME FORWARD** – Any person professing faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and accepting the Baptist principles, practices, and the covenant of this church, may join this Christian church. Persons interested in affiliating should speak with the Pastor, Moderator, or come forward at a meeting of the congregation. A person may join by Believer's Baptism, Letter of Transfer from a previous Christian church with prior baptism, or a Satisfactory Statement of Christian Faith.



**American Baptist Church USA** – American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA) is one of the most diverse Christian denominations today, with approximately 5,000 local congregations comprised of 1.3 million members across the United States and Puerto Rico. [www.abc-usa.org](http://www.abc-usa.org)



THIRD SUNDAY  
OF  
*Advent*

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