

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
A SEASON OF JUBILATION: JOY / GAUDETE!
DECEMBER 14, 2025

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Preparing for Worship: On this Third Sunday of Advent, we come with hearts lifted by the promise of joy that only God can give. The Scriptures tell us that even in seasons of waiting, the Lord is near, strengthening weary hands and renewing fearful hearts. As we gather, may we rejoice in the God who saves, heals, and brings good news to all who long for His coming.

Prelude **Joanna Cunningham, Pianist**

Welcome and Greetings in Jesus' Name **Rev. Dr. Ivan E. Greuter**

***Opening Song (Stand) # 183 "Good Christian Men, Rejoice"**
IN DULCI JUBILO

***Opening Prayer (Stand)** **Rev. Dr. Ivan E. Greuter**

Song **"Come Jesus Come"** *Worship Team*

The Lighting of the Advent Shepherds Candle: ***THE CANDLE OF JOY!***

Leader: Rejoice! The Lord is near! This is the day to lift our hearts in gladness.

People: Yet we confess that our joy is often clouded by worry, doubt, and the burdens of daily life.

Leader: The prophets proclaimed good news to all people: God's salvation is coming!

People: Forgive us, O Lord, for failing to trust your promises. Forgive us for letting fear overshadow hope, and sorrow dull our joy.

Leader: As we light the candle of joy, let its brightness awaken gladness in our hearts.

People: Renew our spirits, O God. Fill us with the joy that comes from your presence, that we may witness your love in the world. Amen.

Song of Faith # "Crown Him with Many Crowns (Christmas)" WT

WE HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD

Scripture Reader: Lonna Hersh

The First Reading **Isaiah 35:1-10**

The Second Reading **James 5:7-10**

Gospel Reader: Deacon Sonia Roling

***The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ (Stand)** **Matthew 11:2-11**

***Responsorial (Stand) # 202 "How Great Our Joy"** *JUNGST*

***Greeting and Sharing Peace with Family and Neighbors (Stand)**

The Children's Sermon (Children's Church for Students Preschool–3rd Grade)

Announcements & Prayers of the People - 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.

Presentation of Tithes, Gifts, and Donations – On this Third Sunday of Advent, we remember the prophet's promise that **"the ransomed of the Lord shall return...and everlasting joy shall be upon their heads"** (Isaiah 35:10). With grateful hearts, let us give in anticipation of the joy God is bringing into the world through Christ.

Offertory **"Adore Him"** **Chancel Choir**
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A Prayer of Illumination & Message

The Reverend Doctor Ivan E. Greuter, Senior Minister

WE RESPOND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT IN FAITH AND SERVICE

Invitation to Faith and Fellowship

***Hymn (Stand) # 181 "Joy to the World"** *ANTIOCH*

***Spoken Benediction** **Rev. Dr. Ivan E. Greuter**

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) that have hurt God and others. Apologize to God, 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, 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 or come forward at a congregation meeting. 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.

OUR MISSION – We love God and We love People by sharing the Good News of God's forgiving, renewing love in Jesus Christ by word and deed to improve the lives of neighbors. West Side Baptist Church is an independent, autonomous Christian church partnering for mission support with like-minded people of faith in our City, County, State, Nation, and World.

