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Advent 3

2 Samuel 7:1-14

Isaiah 62:1, 6-7, 10-12

Luke 2:1-14

December 13, 2020

## GATHERING

### PRELUDE

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Returning again to the waters of our baptism, we begin in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Let us confess our sin before God and in the presence of one another.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Gracious and merciful God,

**We confess to you the truth of our broken lives.**

**We have not trusted your promises or walked in your ways. We have hoarded and squandered the gifts of your creation. We have failed to welcome the stranger and the outcast, and to make room at the table for the homeless and the hungry. We have neither worked to release the oppressed nor admitted our own captivities. Forgive our sin, heal our lives, and set us free that we might live with your whole creation in the justice and joy of your promised future.**

God, who is merciful and kind, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, hears the cries of all who plead for mercy and, in these last days, has sent Christ Jesus to announce the good news of forgiveness and release to all who are bound by guilt or broken by shame, that they might praise God and serve the world with glad and generous hearts. For freedom Christ has set you free.

**Thanks be to God.**

### GATHERING HYMN

*"Beneath the Tree of Life"*

### GREETING & KYRIE

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING AND PRAYER

### SPECIAL MUSIC

## WORD

A reading from Second Samuel.

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you." But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. When he commits iniquity, I will punish him with a rod such as mortals use, with blows inflicted by human beings.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

### SUNG RESPONSE

*"Wait for the Lord"*

A reading from Isaiah.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the Lord, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the

peoples. The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him." They shall be called, "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord"; and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## SUNG RESPONSE

*"Wait for the Lord"*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*"Tree of Life"*

The gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*"What Child is This"*

## NICENE CREED

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*The response is:*

God of joy,

**Hear our prayer.**

## PEACE

## OFFERING

## 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 and ever. Amen.**

## SENDING

## SENDING HYMN

*"Advent Monarch"*

## BLESSING

May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, ✝ Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always.

**Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

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### ***Serving in Worship***

Pr. Jenn Collins

Pr. Justin Smoot

Joel Freiberg - Pianist

Laura Seanor - Vocalist

Nicholas Josiger - Layreader

### ***Technical Support***

Patrick Kieper and Mark Clark

Joel Freiberg

Bob Wiederhoeft

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### **Altar Flowers**

The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given to the glory of God by Tom and Deb Garton in memory of their moms, Jill and Connie.

### ***Thank you for your offerings and continued support!***

Now more than ever we are grateful for a gift of any amount you might share to further support the ministry of Saint Andrew. What you share makes a difference as we seek to be "open to all". For the many ways you give, thank you.



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DECEMBER 13, 2020  
THIRD SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT



*Jesus brings good news.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 1:6-8, 19-28	John's witness to the light
Monday	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	Good news of deliverance
Tuesday	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	A call to rejoice
Wednesday	Romans 10:14-17	Those who bring good news
Thursday	1 Thessalonians 3:6-13	Timothy's encouraging report
Friday	Genesis 18:1-18	A son for Abraham and Sarah
Saturday	Psalms 126	A people who dream
Sunday	Luke 1:26-38	The birth of Jesus foretold

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*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. Isaiah 61:1 (NRSV)*

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

God of power and might, help us to be aware of the needs of people and be prepared to bring joy and good news to people through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

#### **Mealttime Prayer:**

May this gift of food fill our hearts with laughter and make us shout with joy. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the God of peace make you holy in spirit and soul and body. (1 Thessalonians 5:23)



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DECEMBER 13, 2020

### HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Joy to the World*



### WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

### CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Think or talk about a time when you felt sad or brokenhearted.
- When you feel discouraged, who do you talk to or what do you do to feel better?
- Jesus comes to change our lives. How does Jesus make a difference for your life and the lives of others?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11.

An American emailed his friend in Zimbabwe and asked if he was well. The response was "I am well if you are well." That response comes with a communal understanding of wellness. We can't be well on our own. Neither can we truly feel okay about ourselves if we feel safe and protected while our neighbor does not feel okay. Isaiah 61:1-2 brings good news for all, including—and especially—the oppressed, the brokenhearted, captives, prisoners, those who mourn and those who owe debts (The year of the Lord's favor was a time to forgive debts). God's work of justice and mercy that brings joy will be seen in all the nations (v. 11) and is for all, not just a select and privileged few. How do you see the wellbeing of others as important to your own wellbeing?

*Pray:* **God of justice, we give you thanks that your goodness and mercy is for us and for all the world through Christ our Lord. Amen. (Isaiah 61:11)**

### SERVICE

There is a theme of joy in our readings this week. This joy includes God's promise to overcome pain, disappointment, and fear. Think of someone currently experiencing difficulties. How can you be the hands and voice of God's good news to that person this week?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Place the wise men further away from the nativity set for now. Wait to place Jesus in the manger until Christmas Eve. On your Advent wreath, light the first candle of hope, the second one of peace, and the third one of joy. Pause for a moment to sit in silence and look upon the nativity set and think about the good news and joy the coming of Jesus brings us.  
*Say this Bible verse: Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)*  
*Pray: Lord God, thank you for being with us in times of sadness and times of joy. Give us hope, peace and joy as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Amen.*



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)



## WEEK THREE: To Practice JOY

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### SCRIPTURE

Read Luke 2:1-14

### REFLECTION

There is a hymn that says, "Count your blessings, name them one-by-one. Count your blessings, see what God has done." These wise words remind the people of God to look for joy in their everyday lives.

In our story, the shepherds were doing their job in the fields by taking care of the sheep. It is what they did every day. Maybe their job had become a routine. Perhaps they were used to living in the fields, and they had forgotten to notice the green grass or look up at the glittering stars. Suddenly, the angels came to the shepherds to share, "the good news of great joy for all the people." They said, "Jesus has been born. It is a blessing for you. It is a blessing for everyone!"

The appearance of the angels woke the shepherds up. Suddenly, they were surrounded by the joy of the angels. Can you imagine the joy that filled that moment? Joy is always contagious. The angels' joy spread to the shepherds. After the angels left, they were bursting to talk with one another. They decided to journey to Bethlehem and search for baby Jesus.

Just like the shepherds, you probably experience amazing joy in special moments that you want to share with others, too. Even better, we don't have to wait for special days to experience joy. Joy is all around us in our ordinary days. Ordinary joy isn't announced by angels in the sky or by glittering candles on a birthday cake. Ordinary joy happens in the quieter moments of life.

How did you experience joy today? Maybe it was in a video call with a grandparent, a fist bump from your sibling, or knowing you did your very best on your schoolwork. Noticing our ordinary joy and sharing it with our friends and family is the way we practice joy. As we practice joy, it grows in our own hearts. As we share our joy with others, it grows in their hearts.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Can you imagine how the shepherds felt when the angels appeared with their message of joy? What do you think they looked like? How do you think they sounded? Take turns acting it out.
- Have you ever gotten so caught up in the routine of life that you have forgotten to look for joy? How do you feel on days when you do not notice the moments of joy around you? And on the days you do?
- Name a way you experienced ordinary joy today. Share with your family. Make a plan to practice joy this week by sharing one ordinary joy every day.

## ACTIVITY

### Materials:

- This week's Activity Page
- Scissors
- Glue or tape
- Toothpicks, cotton swabs, short dowels, sticks, straws, etc.
- String or ornament hook
- Thin ribbon
- Art supplies (markers, crayons, colored pencils, etc.)

One way people practice joy is by telling stories of good times—times of laughter, triumph, and connection. Some families remember joyous times through scrapbooks or photographs. Some people use social media to record their joys. Some people keep journals of all the wonderful things that happen. Even when we are suffering or in pain, we may find ways to practice joy.

Spend some time recording your joys on the scrolls provided on the Activity Page. Write the year at the top, then color and write your joys from this week, this month, this season, and this year. Did some good things happen? What will you want to remember in the future? Practice joy by making a list of joyous experiences or events from the year.

Glue the top part of your paper to toothpicks, cotton swabs, short dowels, sticks, or straws, and roll up your scrolls. Tie a thin ribbon around your scroll. Using string or an ornament hook, hang your scroll on your tree or on your window so that you can recall the memories. Joy does not end. You can unroll your scroll and reread your lists of joy every year during the Advent season. Joy is a gift that keeps on giving!

## PRAAYER

God of great joy,  
When fear becomes too loud inside our head,  
help us to open our hearts  
and feel your presence with us.  
We feel great joy when we see you with us.  
**Amen.**

REMEMBERING

my Joy MORE



REMEMBERING

my Joy MORE



REMEMBERING

my Joy MORE



