

# SUNDAY SERVICE FOR DECEMBER 12, 2021

PRELUDE “Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne” -arr. A. Whitworth

## WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

• CALL TO WORSHIP/ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING (*Responsively*)

**“Joy”– Rejoice! – Steffi Ehrlich, Gerda Meinhold, and Karin McElrone**

One: The God of Advent calls us to watch for the coming of the Lord.

**All: With anticipation and joy we say, “Yes,” to the God of such gifts!**

One: The Mighty One overflows with grace and abundance for all who wait with faith.

**All: Even in such a world as this we wait with hearts of rejoicing.**

One: “In those days I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David;

**All: “And he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.”**

• OPENING HYMN #138 “Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn” (*Sung by all*)

(*We encourage masking while singing*)

• OPENING PRAYER (*In unison*)

**You are the One, Holy God, who promises deliverance, heals with salvation and fulfills with the**

**light of new life. In the midst of this Advent we await such wonder. Forgive us, O God, for the**

**empty belief that we could greet such a day without first experiencing John’s baptism of**

**repentance, without first turning our lives around. Show us the way and cleanse our hearts, so we**

**might be ready to greet the new morning you bring with the Holy Child. Magnify our joy with the**

**Good News only you can bring. In Christ we pray. Amen.**

• WORDS OF ASSURANCE

• RESPONSE #132 “When God Is a Child” (*Vs 3*) (*Sung by all – we encourage masking*)

**Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,**

**Telling the world that the Savior is born.**

(*Refrain*)

**When God is a child there’s joy in our song.**

**The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,**

**and none shall be afraid.**

• PASSING OF THE PEACE

(*As we greet those around us with the sign of peace, please be respectful of each other’s comfort level.*)

MUSICAL RESPONSE “On Jordan’s Bank, the Baptist’s Cry”

## SCRIPTURE

First Reading: **Zephaniah 3:14-20** (*page 877*)

WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS (*See last page & insert*)

Introduction & Promises

Covenant of Emanuel Church, Hales Corners (*In unison*)

**We covenant with one another to seek and respond to the Word and the Will of God. Our purpose is to walk together in the ways of the Lord made known to us and to be made known to us. We hold it to be the mission of the church to witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in all the world, while worshiping God and striving for truth, justice, and peace. As did our ancestors, we depend on the Holy Spirit to lead and empower us. We pray for the coming of the Kingdom of God and look with faith toward the triumph of righteousness and eternal life.**

Prayer

Gifts and Time of Welcome

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Second Reading: **Luke 3:7-18** (*page 60*)

CHILDREN "Hanging the Ornament" - JOY

• SERMON HYMN #122 "Comfort, Comfort You My People"

SERMON "*Joy In Spite of It All*" Rev. Tom Payden

CHORAL ANTHEM "Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter of Zion" -K. Kosche

CALL TO OFFER OUR TIME AND TALENTS

*(Offering plates can be found at the center doors outside the sanctuary. Giving is also possible online through VANCO MOBILE on our website and through the sharing of your gifts in service.)*

SILENT REFLECTION

• OFFERTORY RESPONSE #173 "As with Gladness" (Vs. 3) (*Sung by all*)

*(We encourage masking while singing.)*

**As they offered gifts most rare at the manger plain and bare,  
so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to you from whom they spring.**

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE - SILENT PRAYER - PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER (*In unison*)

**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.**

**And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever. Amen.**

CHILDREN "Hanging the Ornament" - JOY

RESPONSE #119 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (*Vs 1*)  
(*Please sing while the children hang the ornament of Joy*)

• CLOSING HYMN #129 "Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates"  
(*We encourage masking while singing*)

• COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "O Thou Joyful!" -arr. A. Fedak

**Enter to Worship – Depart to Serve**

*Our time of worship concludes at the end of the Postlude. If you would like to remain in the sanctuary to listen to this music written and played to glorify God, please do so quietly. Otherwise, you may join others in the narthex for refreshments and fellowship.*

**Zephaniah 3:14-20**

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

## RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

### Questions for the Candidate

Pastor: Do you desire to be baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

*Candidate: I do.*

Pastor: Do you renounce the powers of evil and desire the freedom of new life in Christ?

*Candidate: I do.*

Pastor Tim: Do you profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

*Candidate: I do.*

Pastor: Do you promise, by the grace of God,  
to be Christ's disciple,  
to follow in the way of our Savior,  
to resist oppression and evil,  
to show love and justice,  
and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ  
as best you are able?

*Candidate: I promise, with the help of God.*

Pastor: Do you promise,  
according to the grace given you,  
to grow in the Christian faith  
and to be a faithful member  
of the church of Jesus Christ,  
celebrating Christ's presence  
and furthering Christ's mission in all the world?

*Candidate: I promise, with the help of God.*