



THIRD SUNDAY OF
ADVENT



West Richmond Church of the Brethren

7612 Wanyamala Road, Henrico, Virginia 23229-4239
804-288-6439 804-282-4408 (fax) wrcob@wrcob.org www.wrcob.org

December 17, 2023

3rd Sunday of Advent

Joy

Welcome

Prelude

Christmas is Here

Dale Wood

Christmas is Here by Dale Wood
© 1969, 1971, 1988, 1990 The Sacred Music Press (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.)
CCLI License No. 11428263 Size B; 20298271 Size A

GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

* Lighting the Advent Candles

Carol Penner, Conrad Grebel College

One: Today we mark the third Sunday of Advent, and today we light the candle of joy!

Many: Advent is the season of joy! We hope for Immanuel, God with us, who knows us more than we know ourselves, and brings us life abundant and everlasting joy. In darkness that deepens, we wait for the coming of the light of the world. We wait in joy as we light this candle of joy.

* Opening Prayer

Advent God, we journey with you, to Bethlehem's stable and a new-born King, ears attuned to the song of angels, eyes alert for Bethlehem's star. Forgive us if on our journey we are distracted by the tempting offers of this world.

Keep our hearts aflame with the joy of Christmas, and the promise of a Savior. Amen

* **Carol**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

#26 | VT

Verse 1:

Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice.
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today!
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Verse 2:

Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice.
Now ye hear of endless bliss; Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are bless'd forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Verse 3:

Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice.
Now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all, to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

Children's Time (children under 5, can go to Nursery Care)

Carol

12 Days of Christmas

unknown

(Advent Version)

On the first day of Christmas, our Father gave to us...

The Saving Grace of Jesus Christ

Seven Days of Blessings

Two Testaments

Eight Ways of Praying

Three Major Prophets

Nine Beatitudes

Four Gospel Books

Ten Commands for Living

Five Books of Law

Eleven Godly Women

Six Days of Work

Twelve True Apostles

Old Testament Reading

I Chronicles 16:27-28 NRSVUE

²⁷ Honor and majesty are before him; strength and joy are in his place. ²⁸ Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Pastoral Prayer

Carol

Angels We Have Heard on High

#249 VT

Verse 1:

Angels we have heard on high,
singing sweetly through the night,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their brave delight.

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.

Verse 2:

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see?
What glad tidings did you hear?

Refrain

Verse 3:

Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing.
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Refrain

Verse 4:

See him in a manger laid
whom the angels praise above.
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while we raise our hearts in love.

Refrain

WORSHIP IN GIVING

Thoughts on Giving (in unison)

Carol Penner, Conrad Penner College

Let us be a witness to God: immersed in scripture, constant in prayer, joyful in worship, generous in giving. A loving, supportive community reaching out to those in need. May God accept the gifts we offer, in Jesus' name, Amen.

Special Music

Someday

Michael W. Smith and Keith Thomas

LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

Scripture Lesson

Luke 10:38-42 NLT

³⁸ As Jesus and the disciples continued on their way to Jerusalem, they came to a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. ³⁹ Her sister, Mary, sat at the Lord's feet, listening to what he taught. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by the big dinner she was preparing. She came to Jesus and said, "Lord, doesn't it seem unfair to you that my sister just sits here while I do all the work? Tell her to come and help me."

⁴¹ But the Lord said to her, "My dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details!" ⁴² There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her."

Sermon

"Are You a Martha or Mary at Christmas?"

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* **Carol**

Joy to the World

#240 VT

Verse 1:

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive its king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Verse 2:

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Verse 3:









No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground.
He comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

Verse 4:

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

* **Benediction**

* Please stand as able and led

       	
Ministers.....	All Members
Pastor.....	David Whitten
Minister of Music.....	Vanessa Morton
Worship Leader.....	Thoko Lipato
Children’s Time.....	Sarah Hartman
Special Music.....	Anna & Travis Williams
Flautist.....	Sarah Hartman
Guitarist.....	David Whitten
Dir. of Media & Tech.....	Kevin Beers