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## Sunday Advent Worship

December 13, 2020

9:30am Online

10:00am Drive-In

*(Weather Permitting)*

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TO  
PRACTICE  
JOY

DO NOT BE AFRAID...

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS (Adapt. from: Written by Sem. Kayla Sadowy and The Rev. Carla Christopher Wilson)

Jesus, who comes as new birth,  
we have prepared for you  
with comfortable traditions and humble requests.

We have remembered your birth as if it was a past act  
and not the bold declaration of a living God.

We have rested in the safer hope of your work,  
struggling with our call as co-creators of the Beloved Community,  
hurting your children with our ill-informed action and comfort-catering inaction.

*All this we humbly confess together.....*

**Help us remember in this season of anticipation  
that we prepare not only for you, but because of you.**

**Challenge us to examine our intentions, and to hold sacred both the act of preparing,  
and the transforming justice love of the one who comes. Amen.**

## GATHERING SONG

*"Blessed Be the God of Israel"*

ELW 250

## ADVENT PRAYER

Let us pray together,

**We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.  
As we light the candles on this wreath with joy, strengthen our hearts as we await the Lord's coming  
in glory. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may serve our neighbors in need. Grant this through  
Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. Amen.**

**Psalm 126**

<sup>1</sup>When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

<sup>2</sup>Then our mouth was filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations,  
"The Lord has done great things for them."

<sup>3</sup>The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

<sup>4</sup>Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negeb.

<sup>5</sup>May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

<sup>6</sup>Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,  
shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

*The Word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.***

**Gospel: Luke 2:1-14**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>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.

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>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: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

The Gospel of Our Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

# **BUT COULD WE CULTIVATE A PRACTICE OF JOY?**

## REFLECTION SONG

*"Rejoice"*

CCLI# 4822523

## THE APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

*Pause after each prayer for a brief time of reflection.*

L: Lord in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

# CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION *(9:30am Online & 10:00am Drive-In)*

## LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

**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.**

## BLESSING

May you find time for rest this season, may you create space to wait and may the Lord our God fill you with hope, peace, joy & love.  
May Jesus Christ be ever present in your heart and may the Holy Spirit illuminate your way. **Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

*"Joy to the World"*

ELW 267

## SENDING

Go in peace, as we share in the Resurrection by:

**Loving Jesus, Changing Lives, and Reaching Out to Serve. Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE

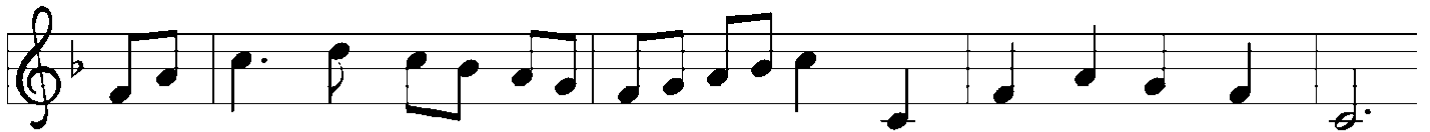
## Blessed Be the God of Israel



1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free  
2 With prom - ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,  
3 My child, as proph - et of the Lord you will pre - pare the way,



and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.  
the oath once sworn to A - bra - ham, from foes to save us all;  
to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.



So have the proph - ets long de - clared that with a might - y arm  
that we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise,  
Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease



God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.  
in ho - li - ness and righ - teous - ness to serve God all our days.  
to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944, based on Luke 1:68-79

Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune

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# Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,  
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

# REJOICE

## Verse 1

See the morning see it rising  
Over the mountains high  
See the mercy in the mighty  
Hand of God  
Living water come and fill us  
Only You can satisfy  
Turn our sorrow into singing  
The song of life

## Chorus

Rejoice rejoice  
And sing with the angel voices  
Rejoice rejoice  
All Heaven and earth rejoice

## Verse 2

Lord Your strength is a tower  
The righteous run into  
Lord Your love is a banner  
Over us  
And we hold on to the promise  
That Your hold on us is true  
There's no other like You Jesus  
No one like You

## Bridge

Always again I say rejoice  
Always again I say rejoice  
Always again I say rejoice  
Always always

CCLI Song # 4822523

Chris Tomlin | Ed Cash | Jesse Reeves

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## Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872



## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

**A brief silence.**

We pray for the ministry we share in Christ's name. Open our hearts to your call for justice, peace, and healing. Attune us to the needs of your church and the world as you draw near.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this planet in need of restoration: for devastated habitats, polluted waters, thawing ice, blazing fires, swelling floods, and long-lasting droughts. Renew the face of the earth and our relationship to it. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for people who are facing shortages or in crisis as the seasons change: especially for those without homes facing severe weather, for those who are unemployed or underemployed, and for those in poverty or facing food insecurity. Relieve their burdens, sustain their bodies, and ease their minds. We lift in prayer Racine County Food Shelf, Living Faith Food Pantry and Holy Communion Food Pantry that serve the people in our community. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all people who care for others in our community and around the world. Fill them with compassion and the power to respond with justice for those who are oppressed, with welcome for those who are excluded, and with relief for those who suffer. Send your healing spirit upon those we lift in prayer today....Roy, Elaine, David, Sherry, Doris, Barbara, Pastor Bill & Family, Cindy, Nancy, Tom, Phyllis, Barb, Betty, Joyce, Mark, Adele, Bill, Don, Sandy, Earl & Hazel, Sandy, Jim, Kit, Mel, Jacki, Julie, and Shirley. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We are blessed by the commitments that have come in towards our 2021 ministry and mission budget and we give thanks for all that God has provided. We are ever thankful for those members who have faithfully given to all that God is calling us to be part of in the community of Racine and beyond. May we be blessed with the pledges we have received and those that will come in these weeks ahead, that they may be the necessary gifts to help us continue sharing the Good News of Jesus and to reach out to our neighbors. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for the lives and witness of those who died while waiting for justice, peace, or healing, those whose names we know especially Paul Clausen who died this past week and those whose names are known only to you. Sustain all who still yearn for your compassion, comfort, peace and presence in their time of grief and sorrow. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**