



## *The People of God in Worship*

December 17, 2017

Eleven O'Clock in the Morning

### *Third Sunday of Advent*

#### **THE GREETING**

The Rev. Dr. Michael K. Cheuk

To our Guests, Members, and Friends: In the pew rack you will find a small brochure to give us the opportunity to get to know you and serve you better. Fill in where appropriate, and place it in the collection plate. Welcome and thank you!

#### **THE CHIMES**

Three chimes are sounded, awakening us to the presence of God, alerting us to the voice of Christ, centering us in the embrace of the Spirit.

#### **THE PRELUDE**

Please consider the organ prelude as an invitation to quietly, reverently prepare yourself for worship.

#### **\*THE CALL TO WORSHIP**

Mr. Parks Snead

Leader: I was overjoyed when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"

**People: Like faithful people of the ages, we gather to worship you, O God.**

Leader: This is where you teach us your ways, that we may walk in your paths.

**People: This is where your word of joy and justice for all people is heard and acted upon.**

Leader: The fearful of heart will hear this: "Be strong, do not fear!"

**People: He will come and save you! O joy!**

Leader: They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

#### **\*HYMN OF JOY - HYMN No. 245**

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

#### **\*INVOCATION AND THE GLORIA PATRI**

Mr. Parks Snead

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.*

#### **THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

#### **THE CANDLE OF JOY**

Vic and Cheryle Angell

Leader: We light this candle to welcome the coming of God's light into our world. As we receive this light, may we know the joy of our Lord, and may our joy be full.

**People: Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon us!**

**\*THE ADVENT RESPONSE** (Stanzas 1, 2, and 3)

*On This Day, Earth Shall Ring*

**THE FIRST READING**

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Mr. Parks Snead

Leader: A Word for the people of God.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

**THE SECOND READING**

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Mr. Parks Snead

Leader: A Word for the people of God.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

**THE ANTHEM**

*Advent Alleluia*

arr. Keith Christopher

**THE MORNING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

The Rev. Dr. Michael K. Cheuk

*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, for ever and ever. Amen.*

**\*THE OFFERTORY - HYMN No. 270**

*Joy to the World*

**THE GIFTS**

\*Offertory Moment and Prayer

Mr. Parks Snead

Offertory

*Rejoice Greatly*  
(Debbie Burton, Soloist)

G.F. Handel

\*Doxology - No. 815

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

**THE THIRD READING**

Psalm 126:1-6

The Rev. Dr. Michael K. Cheuk

Leader: A Word for the people of God.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

**THE MESSAGE**

*A Song of Joy*

The Rev. Dr. Michael K. Cheuk

**THE INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP**

If you desire membership in this congregation, you are invited to present yourself at this time. If you prefer not to present yourself, you may speak to the minister after the service to effect membership. As an open membership church, we honor your previous baptism in any other Christian community. If you have not made a profession of faith, we invite you to do so and receive Christian baptism. Church members are invited to use this time to renew their covenantal relationship with God and their commitment to Christian service.

**\*HYMN No. 271**

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You*

**\*BENEDICTION**

The Rev. Dr. Michael K. Cheuk

**\*THE CHORAL RESPONSE**

*Advent Alleluia*

arr. Keith Christopher

**\*THE POSTLUDE**

- 
- \* The ushers will seat those waiting.
  - \* Those who are able will please stand.
  - \* Hearing aids are available from the ushers.

**Last week's sermon outline and copies of the prayer list are in the narthex.**

### Offertory Emphasis

True joy is a fruit of the Spirit.

In cooperation with other Virginia Baptists, you share in the work of the Spirit and the cultivation of joy...in urban and rural settings across the state...on college campuses and in prisons...through special outreach to ethnic groups...and in partnerships reaching to Haiti and Romania. Your mission gift is a source of true joy for many.

Please join me in prayer.

*We seek to be bringers of joy as partners with other Virginia Baptists. Bless those who carry out the work of the Spirit on our behalf, across the state and around the world. Amen.*