



The People of God in Worship

December 16, 2018

Eleven O'Clock in the Morning

Third Sunday of Advent

THE GREETING

The Rev. Dr. Martha D. Kearse

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 PRELUDE

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

THE SYMBOLS OF ADVENT: THE CRECHE

Victor Angell

THE CANDLE LIGHTING

Pat and Bill Fleming

Leader: On the Third Sunday of Advent, we light the Candle of Joy.

People: We give thanks for the joy without which the universe would not exist.

Leader: We place the figures of the nativity scene on the altar, recognizing the joy of the mother,

People: The joy of the father,

Leader: The joy of the shepherds and the humble creatures around them,

People: The joy of the universe, bursting forth as a star.

Leader: We lift our voices in wonder and gratitude for the joy brought into the world this day.

All: We sing, as the angels did, of joy to the world!

***HYMN OF PRAISE No. 270**

Joy to the World!

***THE INVOCATION**

Victor Angell

***ADVENT SONG (verses 1-3 - sheet music in pew rack)**

On This Day Earth Shall Ring

***HANGING OF THE GREENS**

The Community

THE FIRST READING

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Victor Angell

Leader: A word from God for the people of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE SECOND READING

Zechariah's Song from Luke 1:67-79

Jeff Curcio, Gary Christie,
and Bill Cook

THE ANTHEM

Advent Alleluia

arr. Keith Christopher

**CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS OF COMMUNITY,
THE MORNING PRAYER, AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

The Rev. Dr. Martha D. Kearse

THE OFFERTORY HYMN No. 281 (remain seated)

What Child Is This?

***THE GIFTS**

*Offertory Moment and Prayer

Victor Angell

Offertory

He Shall Feed His Flock

Joseph M. Martin

*Doxology - No. 815

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

THE MESSAGE

Fearless

The Rev. Dr. Martha D. Kearse

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.

***THE CLOSING HYMN No. 278**

Angel We Have Heard on High

***THE BENEDICTION**

***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.

Offertory Emphasis

During this past year we have given more than \$11,000 to missions and denominational relationships. For these last weeks of the year, we celebrate all of those associations. This week, we celebrate the ways we were able to help with educational opportunities in this city and with programs for children. Thank you for the opportunity to work with HumanKind, with Kids' Haven, Camp Timothy, Brook Hill Farms, and with Camp Kum Ba Ya. We also had the pleasant task of collecting toys for Jericho Baptist Church's Christmas Toy Drive. We are grateful to be part of the lives of children through these organizations.

Please join me in prayer.

Thank you, Lord, for the children in our community and for the many people who work to give them good lives, with good homes, good food, and a strong education. Thank you for the joy of being part of that important, sacred work. Amen.