The Worship of God

 Third Sunday of Advent—Joy

 December 16, 2018

R

ejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near!

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer

and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,

will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

 —Philippians 4.4-7

 Gathering At God’s Invitation

Opening Sentences Rev. Alan Sherouse

†Processional Song



Advent Wreath Seth, Genelle, Caleb and Madilyn Hix

God is indeed my salvation;

I will trust and won’t be afraid.

**The Lord is my strength and my shield;**

**God has become my salvation.**

You will draw water with joy from the springs of salvation.

And you will say on that day:

**Thank the Lord; call on God’s name;**

**proclaim God’s deeds among the peoples;**

**declare that God’s name is exalted.**

Sing to the Lord,

who has done glorious things;

proclaim this throughout all the earth.

**Shout and sing for joy, city of Zion,**

**because the holy one of Israel is great among you.**

 –Isaiah 12.2-6 *from* The Common English Bible

Ministry of Music

 *Welcome, Holy Child Carol Dickerson*

 *Sing With the Angels Johnny Carr*

Preschool Choir

 Louise Burroughs *teacher*, Meganne Gould, Fia Goudes *assistants*

 *He Is Born/Sing Noel Vicki Hancock Wright*

 Music Makers

 Penny Rowe *director*, Rosemary Kellam *accompanist*

 Renee Fila a*ssistant,* Jim Bearden *percussion*

 *Jesus Is Born, Prince of Peace Lloyd Larson*

 Young Musicians

 Terri Vancil *director*, Sally Alexander *accompanist,* Lauren Shriver *cello*

 Keeley Duckworth, Jack Foxworth *assistants*

Congregational Response

 ***Silent night! holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light,***

 ***radiant beams from thy holy face,***

 ***with the dawn of redeeming grace,***

 ***Jesus, Lord at thy birth, Jesus, Lord at thy birth.***

A Time for Children Christina McCord

†Passing of the Peace

Musical Interlude

During the Musical Interlude, children, ages four through first grade,

may attend **Junior** **Church** and return to the sanctuary after the sermon.

Words of Friendship Dr. Steve Sumerel

†Carol 133 *Veni Emmanuel*

 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

 Lauren Shriver *cello*

Prayers of God’s People Indigo Stephens

Choral Anthem *Kay Hawkes Goodyear*

 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Adult Ensemble and Young Musicians

 Tony Sanders *accompanist*

 Hearing God’s Word

Scripture Lesson Luke 3.7-18 Ada Noel Harris

 Morgan Alexander

Sermon Rev. Sherouse

Prepare Him Room

Responding to God’s Word

†Hymn of Response 166 *Jungst*

 *While by the Sheep We Watched*

Musical Interlude

Missions Moment

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Offering for Global Missions

Offertory Prayer Andrew Petitt

Choral Offering *Noel Regney/Gloria Shayn*

 *Do You Hear What I Hear*

Adult Ensemble

 Sending Into God’s World

†Benediction Rev. Sherouse

†Congregational Response *Antioch*

***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.***

**Guests** are warmly welcomed today.  There are several ways during the worship hour that we can become better acquainted.

During the **Words of Friendship,** we will share a personal greeting with those sitting around us. You will find a **Connection Card** in the bulletin that can be filled out and dropped in the offering plate as it is passed in the service. **Ministers** will be greeting worshipers at each exit door after the service.