

The Third Sunday of Advent
Christmas Pageant
December 14, 2025

Gathering Music
"Jingle Bells"

Welcome





Announcements



**Thank you for
baking the
goodies !**

**Your cookies
make everyone
Happy.**



**Donna says, "Girls, Photo Time
Cookies ~~ "**



Lighting Advent Candle – Joy

Today is the third Sunday in Advent. Last week, we lit the first two candles in our Advent Wreath, the candles that represent Hope and Peace.

Today, we light the third candle, the candle that represents Joy. We live in a world longing for Joy: a Joy that releases silence that erupts into laughter and singing, a Joy that opens a spirit blocked by disappointment, a Joy that dreams beyond all constraints.



Knowing the need for Joy in our own lives and in this difficult world, we light this candle as a symbol of the Joy promised in the coming of Jesus.

(The third candle is lit.)

Hymn VU # 6 (v.3) “A Candle is Burning”

3

A candle is burning, a candle of Joy,
a candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.
Our hearts fill with wonder, and eyes light and glow
as joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.



Prelude

“Christmas Medley”

Call to Worship *(Adapted from Luke 1:47–55)*

Our souls magnify the Most High, and our spirits rejoice in God our Saviour !

God's mercy is for those who love and revere God, from generation to generation.

God has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; God has filled the hungry with good things.

Blessed be God's name. Let us worship God !

***Hymn VU # 60 (vs. 1,3 and 5)**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

1

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:
come and behold him, born the King of angels;

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.



3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above.
glory to God in the highest:

**O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**



5 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy
morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given.
word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.



Prayer of Confession *(Based on James 5:7–10)*

“Be patient, therefore, friends, until the coming of Christ. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient.”

How is it that I have failed to be patient this past week ? *(Pause for silent reflection.)*

“Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of Christ is near.”

In what ways has my heart been weak ? *(Pause for silent reflection.)*

“Friends, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged.” When did you grumble against someone this past week ? *(Pause for silent reflection.)*

Gracious God, you hear our prayers, and we thank you. In the days and weeks to come, we ask you to strengthen us with so much love that we have no room for hate...with so much strength that we cannot imagine failing to do what is just and right. We pray all these things with the sure knowledge of your coming in a babe in a manger in a barn, so humble, so mighty. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Friends, we know from the ancient witness words of prophets like Mary that the God we worship is indeed forgiving and loving. God is faithful, and frees us from our sins and failings. We are set free to love our neighbour, the world, and ourselves, strengthened by God's incredible love for us. **Amen.**

Christmas Pageant

*“Giving Jesus Our Best
– Giving and the Christmas Story”*



**“Little
Drummer
Boy”**



Hymn VU # 69 “Away in a Manger”

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

**2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.**

**3 Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
and fit us for Heaven, to live with you there.**

Christmas Song *“Twelve Days of Christmas”* *led by Jan*

Did you know this ? The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ.

-Two turtle doves are the Old and New Testaments.

-Three French hens stand for faith, hope and love.

-The four colling birds are the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

-The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of ...the Old Testament.

-The six geese a-laying stand for the six days of Creation.....

-Seven swans a-swimming represent the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit--Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.

-The eight maids a-milking are the eight beatitudes.

-Nine ladies dancing are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit--Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control.

- The ten lords a-leaping are the Ten Commandments.
- The eleven pipers piping stand for the eleven faithful disciples.
- The twelve drummers drumming symbolises the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

So there is your history for today.

MERRY CHRISTMAS !!

Yes, I said MERRY CHRISTmas

because Christmas is not without CHRIST !



The Scriptures

Luke 2:8–14 (*Free Transcription*)

That night, some shepherds were out in the fields near Bethlehem, taking turns watching their flocks.

Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared, and God's glory blazed all around them - it was so bright they were terrified !





But the angel said, “Whoa, don't be scared ! I've got huge, amazing news for everyone, a joy that will overflow for all people ! Right now, in Bethlehem, your Rescuer, the Messiah, the Lord, has been born !.

Here's your sign: you'll find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a feeding manger.

Then, suddenly, the sky filled with a huge army of angels, praising God and singing out: “Glory to God in the highest Heavens, and peace on Earth to people he favours !”

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

We give thanks for inspiration.





Choir Anthem

“A Simple Stable”



Monologue “Why Have You Come
Here ?” *by*
Diane

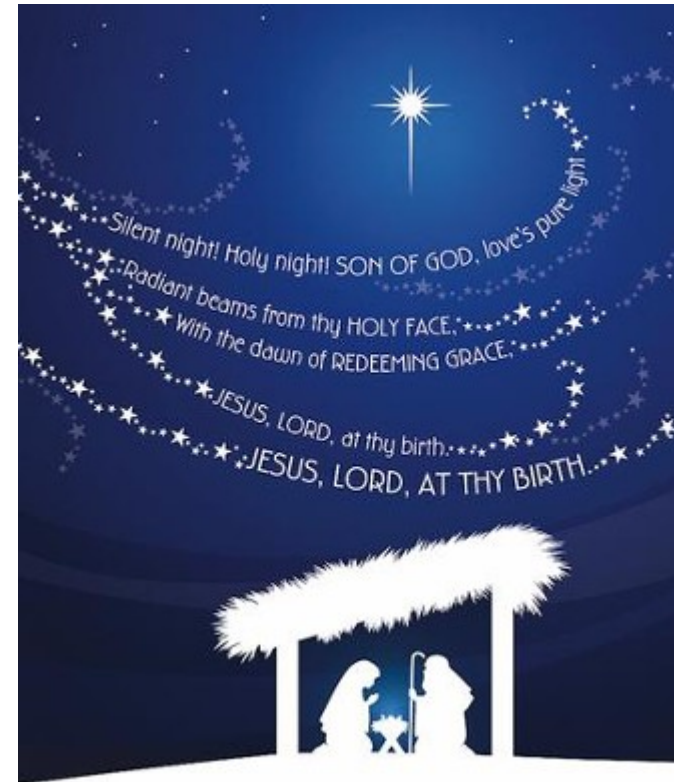
Hymn VU # 67

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

1

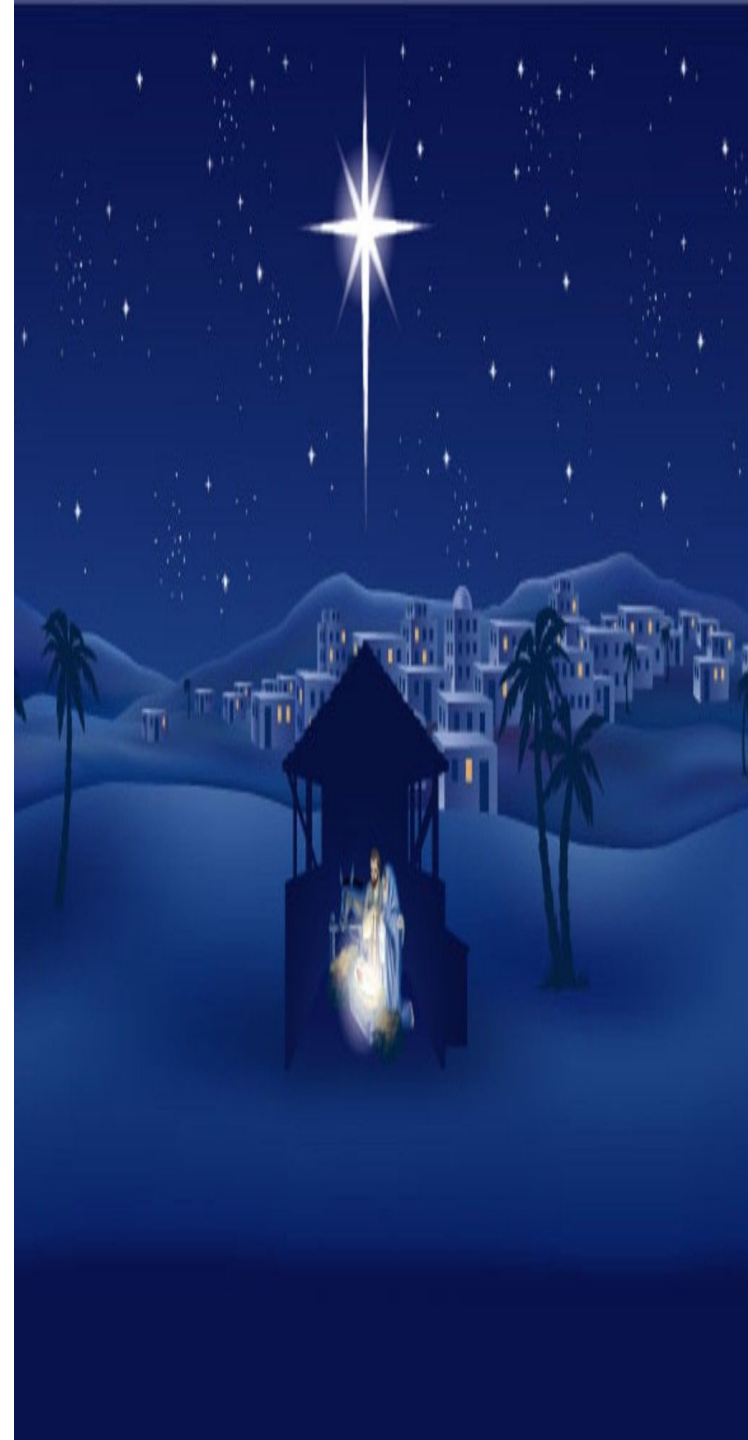
Silent night ! Holy night !
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and
child.

Holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in
heavenly peace.



2 Silent night ! Holy night !
Shepherds quake at the sight:
glories stream from Heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Hallelujah,
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born.

3 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.



Prayers of the People

God of everything upright and upside-down, we thank you for bringing us together to worship in your name in this Advent season. We come to you in prayer, in precisely this moment, and though you know us better than we know ourselves, we know we grow closer to you when we name to you the joys and concerns of our hearts.

We know, the Christ comes not by conquest, domination or manipulation, but with love – surprising, grace-filled love. In the silence of this moment, we name aloud or in our hearts all the thanksgivings we lift to you...

Lifting the gifts, we so gladly receive, we also lift to you our burdens. We try always to be grateful, but Holy God, this life can feel heavy. In the silence of this moment, we name aloud or in our hearts the pains, fears, and sufferings in our own lives, and in your wider world...

Send us forth from this place, God, with the sure and deep knowledge that in every moment, you are with us. Live in our hearts, govern our lives, send us out in your name.

God, we do not want to hurt or destroy on all your holy mountain. May you hear our prayer; make us the willing hands for the words we lift up today. In the name of the little child who leads us we pray. We continue with



The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in
Heaven, hallowéd 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.**

We Offer Our Gifts

Musical Offering HYMN VU # 540

Grant us, God, the grace of giving,
with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living
we may offer faithfully.



Offering Prayer

Almighty and All-loving One, we lift up today our thanks to You. Can we ever catalogue all the ways you have blessed our lives ? More than counting, you want from us our lives, our love, our time and our talents. We dedicate those to you today. Take our very best, may it help bring about peace on your holy mountain. With gratitude and anticipation we pray. Amen.

Hymn VU # 44

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

1 It came upon the midnight clear,
 that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the Earth
 to touch their harps of gold,
'Peace on the Earth, good will to all,
 from Heaven's all-gracious King !'
The world in solemn stillness lay
 to hear the angels sing.

2 Still through the cloven skies they come
 with peaceful wings unfurled;
and still their heavenly music floats
 o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains
 they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
 the blessed angels sing.



3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife
 the world has suffered long;
 beneath the angel strain have rolled
 two thousand years of wrong;
 and warring humankind hears not
 the love song which they bring.
O hush the noise, and cease your strife,
 to hear the angels sing.



4 For, lo ! the days are hastening on,
 by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
 shall come the time foretold,
when Peace shall over all the Earth
 its ancient splendours fling,
and the whole world send back the song
 which now the angels sing.



Blessing

Live without fear; your Creator has made you holy, has always protected you, and loves you as a parent.

Go in peace to follow the good road and may God's blessing be with you always.

Amen.



Commissioning “Go Now in Peace”

*Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast strong and true.
Know God will guide you in all you do.*

*Go now in love and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there within, around, above.
Go now in peace, in faith and in love.
Amen, amen, amen.*



God, we thank you for being with us.
Thank you Congregation for worshipping today
in person and by Zoom !

**Special Thank you to Teachers,
Our Erin Actors and
Actresses !**



(Images from the public domain)