

**St. John's Lutheran Church  
Third Sunday of Advent  
December 12, 2021**



**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME** on this Third Sunday of Advent as we bring Christ's hope, peace and joy into our homes, into our hearts and into our world .

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*GREETING**

P: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, Rejoice!

C: **Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you

C: **And also with you.**

**\*LIGHTING the ADVENT CANDLES**

Today we light the candle of Joy. The third candle, often pink, marks the pivot point, the half-way mark of Advent. We turn from solemnity to joy, from impatient waiting to joyful expectation, from repentance to rejoicing in the revelation of God incarnate as we prepare our gift to Christ.

We will sing a verse of our Hymn of Praise (to tune of #328 green hymnal) as printed in the bulletin as we light each candle.

One: Hope was a dream and yet we waited,

**All: We lift the Light of Hope.**

VERSE 1

We lift the light of hope, O God,

Your presence burning bright.

In praise we sing the gift You bring:

Our hope complete in Christ.

In praise we sing the gift You bring:

Our hope complete in Christ.

One: Peace settled within us and we sought it among the nations,

**All: We lift the Light of Peace.** (light the next purple candle)

VERSE 2

We lift the light of peace, O God,

The Lord of truth and right.

In Your domain let justice reign

And bring us peace in Christ.

In Your domain let justice reign

And bring us peace in Christ.

One: Joy sprang forth from Your salvation and we are glad indeed.

**All: We lift the light of Joy.** (light the pink candle or third purple candle)

## VERSE 3

We lift the light of joy, O God.

Your praise is our delight!

Your blessings flow that all may know

Unbounded joy in Christ.

Your blessings flow that all may know

Unbounded joy in Christ.

## \*HYMN ~ Joy to the World


LBW # 39

## Joy to the World

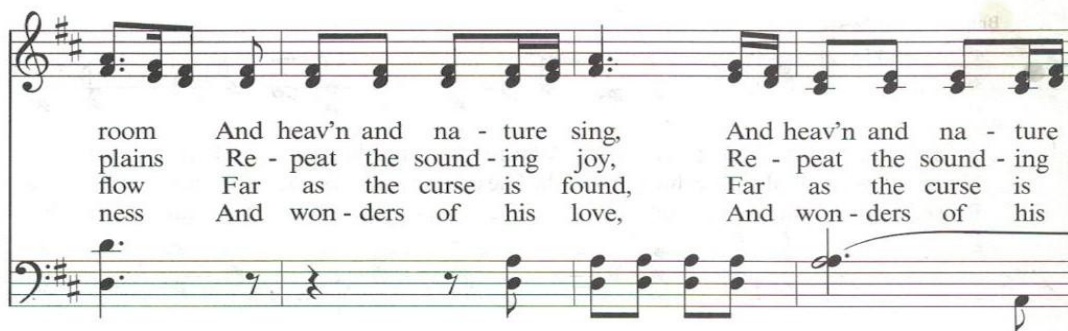
39



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive its  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs em -  
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow Nor thorns in - fest the  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



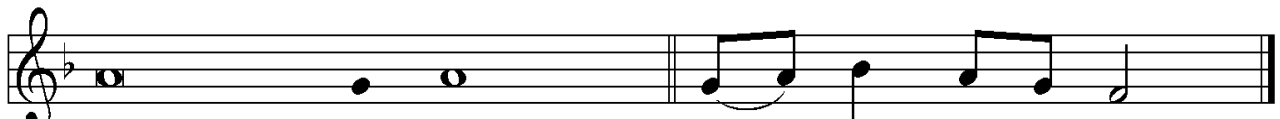
King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
 ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
 ground; He comes to make his bless - ings  
 prove The glo - ries of his righ - teous -



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.

**\*PRAYER of the DAY ~ (in unison)**


**P** The Lord be with you. **A** And al - so with you.

**P** Let us pray...

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**


**A** Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.


Gospel Reading ~ **P** The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.



**G** Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

*The Gospel is read. After the reading*

**P** The Gospel of the Lord



**G** Praise to you, O Christ.

## HOMILY

### \*PRAYERS of the PEOPLE ~ *See Celebrate*

P In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence. *A brief silence*

### \*THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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

### SPECIAL MUSIC ~ *O Holy Night*

Lisa Griffith

**OFFERING** ~ you may leave your gifts in one of the offering plates at the end of the front and back pews on your way out.

### \*OFFERTORY

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -

it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take

not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the

joy of your sal-va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

### \*THE BLESSING

P The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.



**C Amen**  
**\*HYMN ~ Angels We Have Heard on High**

LBW # 71

# 71 Angels We Have Heard on High

1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet-ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro-long?  
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;

And the moun-tains in re-ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
 What the glad-some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
 Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

*Refrain*

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; Glo - - - - -

- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

**PRAYER for CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**Pastor:** Reverend Ela J. Robertson Phone 740-338-7123

**Organist:** Seulki Susie Yoo

**Church Office:** 935-2032 **Email us at** [secretary@stjohnsbelleville.org](mailto:secretary@stjohnsbelleville.org)

**St. John's Christian Day Care:** 935-2959

**Today**

**Greeters:** Mike and Michele Harshbarger

**Next Sunday, December 19**

**Greeters:** Jay and Joy Byler; **Lay Reader:** Jim Buchanan

***Our Mission Statement***

*We, the members of St. John's congregation, promise to share  
the good news of Jesus Christ, to worship and to love one another  
in our homes, church, community and the world.*

***Our Vision Statement***

*To be people who are welcoming and encourage God's love in our community  
through our prayer, devotion, benevolence and deeds.*

The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by  
Ron and Carol Futz in loving memory of Bud Fultz,  
their grandparents, Jerry and Elsie Knepp, Harold and Helen Treaster,  
Roy and Ruby Fultz, Joe and Hilda Anastasi and Bill Stricker.  
And, in honor of their parents. John and Jane McKinley,  
Jane Fultz and Bob Treaster.

Please remember in prayer ~ Camden Peachey (grandchild of Regina Peachey)  
Susan Keller, Scott Plank, Steve Rodgers, Steve Weikel, Stacey Spicher, Kim  
Aumiller, Samantha Smith, our members ~ Joyce Stuck (Ohesson), Vivian Plank ,  
Betty Harmon (Elmcroft), Ev Young (Zion Home, Lititz), Pastor Kramm, Don  
Wolfe, Carol Yoder (VVH).

**FROM the PASTOR**

Christmas Eve worship will be held on December 24 beginning with St. John's  
at 7:00pm and West Kish at 9:00pm. We hope to see you at one or both of these  
special services.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*A heartfelt thank you to my church family, for your cards, phone calls, visits and especially your prayers. Your love and support means so much during this difficult time.*  
*Marge Shilling*

*We would like to thank our church family for the generous donations made to Staff Appreciation. We are blessed to receive these gifts and are very grateful for your kindness.*  
*Susie Yoo, Calvin and Kelly Byler*

Poinsettia orders are due tomorrow. Extra forms can be found in the narthex.

The 2022 offering envelopes are available in member mailboxes, and the 2022 birthday calendars are available in the narthex. There is no charge for the calendars. Please feel free to deliver the envelopes to a church family member, who may not be here to pick theirs up.

Reminder ~ If you have not already, please fill out an updated member information form for the address directory. Copies are available in the narthex.

The Social Ministry Committee continues to collect items for the Shelter Service and the “Mitten Tree”.

**Shelter Service** ~ canned goods, bottled juices, non-perishable foods including cereals, pasta, etc. Paper towels, toilet paper, and tissues, shampoo, body wash/soap for children and adults

**Mitten Tree** ~ mittens, gloves, scarves, hats, and new this year, socks for children/adults slipper socks and children’s slippers

There are still quite a few dates available to place Altar flowers next year. **Please remember to notate** if you would like to keep the flowers or have them delivered. At this time, the cost remains at \$40.00.

January 1 thru December 8, 2021

Last week’s attendance ~ 35    Offering ~ \$ 2,300.00  
St. John’s ~ Income \$ 193,808.34    Expense \$ 193,004.61  
Net Income \$ 803.73

Daycare ~ Income \$ 308,947.91    Expense \$ 289,922.88  
Net Income \$ 19,025.03