

# Third Sunday of Advent

## Joy

December 11, 2016

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS AND THANKSGIVINGS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH.....Jenny, Garrett and Maddox Gooch

OPENING PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER.....Pastor and Congregation

CALL TO WORSHIP ... “Angels We Have Heard on High”..... Ensemble

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON ... *Isaiah 35:1-10* ..... Reggie Jackson

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus<sup>2</sup> it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. <sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup>Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.”

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; <sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. <sup>8</sup>A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God’s people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. <sup>9</sup>No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. <sup>10</sup>And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

HYMN ... “Joy to the World” ...vs. 1, 2 and 4 ..... 102

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE..... Brandi Powers

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We pray you: in your mercy forgive what we have been, amend what we are, direct what we shall be; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, giving thanks in all circumstances through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hear the Good News, in the name of Jesus, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus, you are forgiven.

MORNING PRAYER

OFFERTORY HYMN... “O Little Town of Bethlehem” ...vs. 1, 2 and 4 ..... 107

OFFERTORY PRAYER ..... Usher

OFFERTORY

GOSPEL LESSON ...*Matthew 1:18-25 and 11:2-11*..... Molly Abbott

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: <sup>23</sup>“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” <sup>24</sup>When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup>but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

<sup>2</sup>When John heard in prison what the Messiah<sup>1</sup> was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the leper<sup>1</sup> are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

<sup>7</sup>As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ <sup>11</sup>Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

ANTHEM... “Joy on the Mountain”..... Choir

SERMON ... “A Story of Joy and Love”.....Rev. Josh Powers

CLOSING HYMN ... “Go, Tell It on the Mountain” ... vs. 1 and 3..... 143

POSTLUDE

### USHERS

TODAY.....Dwight Saunders’ Team

NEXT SUNDAY ..... Eugene Crisco’s Team

### CHILDREN’S CHURCH

TODAY..... Brandi Powers

NEXT SUNDAY ..... Tina Cripps

## CALENDAR

### TODAY

4:00 p.m.....Children's Play Practice  
 5:30 p.m..... Choir Practice

### WEDNESDAY

6:00 p.m.....BBQ Supper ... Please bring desserts  
 6:30 p.m..... Bible Study and Children's and Youth Programs

### THURSDAY

7:00 p.m.....Choir Cantata ... *Go Sing It on the Mountain* ... invite friends and neighbors!

### SATURDAY

9:00 a.m..... Adult Choir Rehearsal  
 10:30 a.m..... Children's Dress Rehearsal

### NEXT SUNDAY

11:00 a.m..... Worship ... Choir Christmas Cantata

**Will collect Christmas Missions Offerings**

6:00 p.m..... Children's Christmas Play  
 Immediately after..... **CHURCH-WIDE CHRISTMAS PARTY!**

*Please bring Christmas goodies to share!*

## PRAYER LIST

<p><b><i>Church family:</i></b>                  Wayne Abbott, Eddie and Sharon Reynolds, Katelyn Reynolds, Linda McNeill, Jack Boone, John &amp; Alisa Beard, Larry Wilson, Rodney Loflin, Karen Dailey, Barbara Lynthacum, Gary McCaskill</p> <p><b><i>At Home:</i></b> Helen Greene, Violet Epps, Irene Warner, Florence Cagle</p> <p><b><i>Friends and Relatives of:</i></b>                  Molly/Wayne Abbott</p>	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">Ray, Frances Hudson</td> <td style="width: 30%;"></td> <td style="width: 40%;">daughter</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Paul/Thelma Hussey</td> <td>Janie Rumbly</td> <td>sister</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Meryl Johnson</td> <td>sister-in-law</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Mildred Hunsucker</td> <td>friend</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Harold Johnson</td> <td>brother</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reggie Jackson</td> <td>Marian Jackson</td> <td>mother</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mary James</td> <td>Benny McBride</td> <td>friend</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Bob Moore</td> <td>nephew</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pam Morgan</td> <td>niece</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Butch/Nancy Jenkins</td> <td>John Moore</td> <td>Nancy's father</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Candy Loflin</td> <td>Cristie Thomas</td> <td>friend</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Beth Holt</td> <td>friend</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Misty Morgan</td> <td>friend</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mabel Ann Luther</td> <td>Melissa Nelson</td> <td>grand-daught.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Max/Jane Luquire</td> <td>Iris Luquire</td> <td>sister-in-law</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Jo Brooks</td> <td>friend</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Barbara Lynthacum</td> <td>J.D. Thompson</td> <td>nephew</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Melissa Green</td> <td>daughter</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jean Maness</td> <td>Helen Mabe</td> <td>aunt</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Carol Luther</td> <td>friend</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Janet Maness</td> <td>Polly King</td> <td>friend</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sylvia McAlister</td> <td>Tammy Parker</td> <td>friend</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pat/Bob Morgan</td> <td>Jesse Wallace</td> <td>friend</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jeff Robinson</td> <td>June Spears</td> <td>friend</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nancy Ruppert</td> <td>Marie Spoon</td> <td>sister</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Barbara Smith</td> <td>Laura Wilson</td> <td>friend</td> </tr> </table> <p><b><i>Service Personnel:</i></b>                  Devin Hurley, Mark Davis, Dylan McCaskill, Christian Rush, Seth Spivey, Garrett Wallace, Chris Stuart</p>	Ray, Frances Hudson		daughter	Paul/Thelma Hussey	Janie Rumbly	sister		Meryl Johnson	sister-in-law		Mildred Hunsucker	friend		Harold Johnson	brother	Reggie Jackson	Marian Jackson	mother	Mary James	Benny McBride	friend		Bob Moore	nephew		Pam Morgan	niece	Butch/Nancy Jenkins	John Moore	Nancy's father	Candy Loflin	Cristie Thomas	friend		Beth Holt	friend		Misty Morgan	friend	Mabel Ann Luther	Melissa Nelson	grand-daught.	Max/Jane Luquire	Iris Luquire	sister-in-law		Jo Brooks	friend	Barbara Lynthacum	J.D. Thompson	nephew		Melissa Green	daughter	Jean Maness	Helen Mabe	aunt		Carol Luther	friend	Janet Maness	Polly King	friend	Sylvia McAlister	Tammy Parker	friend	Pat/Bob Morgan	Jesse Wallace	friend	Jeff Robinson	June Spears	friend	Nancy Ruppert	Marie Spoon	sister	Barbara Smith	Laura Wilson	friend
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