

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023



How does a
weary world
rejoice? *We allow ourselves
to be amazed*

Luke 1:46b-47, 49

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

How does a weary world rejoice? During this season of Advent, we acknowledge the weariness, grief, rage, and hopelessness we carry—and we also affirm that we are made for joy.

† From the artist statement on the cover art: “Two people—one radiating joy and the other wading into weariness—hold the world together.”

—Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

Worship Participants

Pastor: Dr. Joel Kok ♦ Piano: William Breems, Mike Janssen ♦ Guitar: Laremy DeVries ♦ Bass: Ricky Rietveld
Drums: James Kamstra ♦ Saxophone: Annika Rynders ♦ Worship Leaders: Melissa Bailey, Jenna Hekman
Readers: Joya Schreurs, Trey Engen, Dave Schelhaas
Sound: Jeff Ploegstra ♦ Video: Tom Clark ♦ CCLI #493458 ♦ OneLicense #A-721171

Hearing Assistance

A telecoil hearing-loop system sends a signal into the sanctuary. If your hearing aid is t-coil equipped, try switching to the t-coil receiver. An FM hearing assistance system is also available for ears without hearing aids. Consult the sound operator for assistance.



We Gather; God Welcomes

Prelude: "Still, Still, Still"

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Welcome

*Call to Worship

Our God can part the sea.

**God can bring water from a rock,
and provide bread in the desert.**

Our God can walk on water.

He can heal the sick,

and turn water into wine.

Our God sets the stars in the sky.

**God hears our voice when we cry,
and is closer than our own breath.**

There is nothing our God cannot do.

Let us stand in awe.

Let us worship God with wonder.

*Song: "Here I Am to Worship"

LUYH 567

*God Greet Us, We Greet One Another

*Song: "My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout"

LUYH 69

We Seek Jesus; God Forgives

Lighting the Advent Candle

New Testament Reading: Luke 1:57-66

p.1589

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance

Family of faith,

just as we marvel at mountains and newborns,
at sunrises and sunsets, God marvels at us.

There is nothing you could do or leave undone
that could prevent God from loving you.

The Invitation

We invite you to come down the center aisle to the communion table. You may partake at the table or take it back to your seats. Gluten-free bread is available on the table.

Communion Songs: "What Child Is This"

LUYH 95

"Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)"

LUYH 693

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

God Sends; We Go Rejoicing

*Benediction

*Closing Song: "Great Is He"

Altos: ***Great is he who's the King of kings and the Lord of lords,
he is wonderful!***

Sopranos: ***Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, he is wonderful!***

Men: ***Alleluia, salvation and glory, honor and power, he is wonderful!***

Author Unknown

Chorus:

***It's not long till the Day of the Lord,
it's not long till the Day of the Lord!
Everything that is broken will soon be restored.
It's not long till the Day of the Lord!***

***3. Do not fear for the wicked with weapons of war,
for the Lord is the shelter and strength of the poor.
And our God comes with laughter, let him be your joy.
The power of the sword, he'll destroy.
It's not long till the Day of the Lord! (to chorus)***

Words and music by Wendell Kimbrough, © 2017 Wendell Kimbrough

God Provides; We Feast

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

The Institution: 1 Corinthians 11

Memorial Acclamation

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Prayer of Consecration, concluding with the Lord's Prayer

**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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors.**

**Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom and the power
and the glory forever. Amen.**

So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

We are forgiven. We are loved.

We belong to God. Amen.

Song of Response: "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

LUYH 98:1,3

Invitation to Giving

Offering our gifts is an important part of our response to God—connecting our worship with a life of discipleship—and is a way to participate in the ministry of Covenant CRC here in this building and around the world. Offering boxes are located at the entrances to the sanctuary, or check your bulletin announcements for more ways to give.

Prayers for the Church and World

God Speaks; We Listen

Children's Blessing: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

LUYH 61 (*refrain*)

Children ages 3 years old through kindergarten are invited to go downstairs to the Multi-Purpose Room for a time of worship designed especially for young children. Our young guests are welcome to participate in this service.

Prayer of Blessing and Illumination

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 61:1-11

p.1157

Message: "Judgment for Joy"

Pastor Joel Kok

*Song of Response: "The Day of the Lord (Psalm 37)"

***1. It's not long 'til the boastful are silenced and shamed.
It's not long 'til the wealth of the wicked's reclaimed.
And the ones who have waited with eyes on the Lord
will shine like the sun forevermore.
It's not long till the Day of the Lord!***

***2. Just be still and be faithful and dwell in the land.
Put your trust in the Savior and cling to his hand.
When your heart burns with anger for all that is wrong,
do not let the dark steal your song.
It's not long till the Day of the Lord!***

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