

*HYMN

When the King Shall Come Again, verses 1-3

Words: Christopher Idle

When the King shall come again all His power revealing,
splendor shall announce his reign, life and joy and healing:
earth no longer in decay, hope no more frustrated;
this is God's redemption day longingly awaited.

In the desert trees take root fresh from his creation;
plants and flowers and sweetest fruit join the celebration.
Rivers spring up from the earth, barren lands adorning;
valleys, this is your new birth, mountains, greet the morning!

Strengthen feeble hands and knees, fainting hearts, be cheerful!
God who comes for such as these seeks and saves the fearful.
Deaf ears hear, the silent tongues sing away their weeping;
blind eyes see, the lifeless ones walking, running, leaping.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

Bethlehem's Song

Donald Lee Moore

*DOXOLOGY

**O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!**

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Good and loving God, thank You for the promise of this season. Bless the gifts we offer, and let them be a blessing for others. May love and justice blossom as we prepare the way. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

*HYMN

Good Christian Friends Rejoice

No. 129, verses 2 & 3

*BENEDICTION

*... Go in peace. Prepare the way.
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!*

*POSTLUDE

Exaltation

Roger C. Wilson

***If you do not wish to take them with you, please place your bulletin & any inserts
in the basket outside the sanctuary as you leave. Thank you!***



Third Sunday of Advent ~ Gaudete: Hopeful Joy

December 12, 2021

Zion United Church of Christ

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WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP WITH US

Third Sunday of Advent

December 12, 2021

9:30 a.m.

BOLD PRINT = congregation

Thank you for turning off your cell phone for worship.

The Ringing of the Bell Gathers Us to Worship

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PRELUDE *An Angel, to the Shepherds Spoke* Edward Boughton

*CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Isaiah 12: 2-6) ~by Jann Cather Weaver
Surely God is our Salvation!

We will trust and not be afraid!

For God is our Strength and Song—and our only Salvation.

With joy we will draw water from the Wells of Salvation.

And we will say in that day— “Give thanksgiving to God!

Call upon God’s Name! Make known God’s deeds among all the nations—
Proclaim the Power of God!”

**Sing praises to God for all the marvelous things—
let them be known in all the earth.”**

“Sing and shout for Joy, O People of God!

ALL: For great in our midst lives the Holy One of God.”

*HYMN *Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates* No. 117, vss. 1-3

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Let some joy loose, O God. Let it rise to the surface and shake us out of our
preoccupation with lists and tasks. Forgive our heavy-hearted approach to Your season
of joy and light. Forgive us when long lists of things to do and places to go overshadow
the wonder of Your Son’s birth.**

**Let some joy loose. Help us see the smile on a stranger’s face. Fill us with the joy of
giving our best to those in need, instead of leftovers. Let some joy loose, O God. Send
the brightness of Your Light into our world of darkness. In Jesus’ name. Amen.**

Silent Prayers of Reconciliation

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

. . . Brothers & sisters, let us forgive as we have been forgiven.

Truly, God is our salvation - we shall trust and not be afraid!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY

Young People

We light again the candles that remind us of God’s gifts of HOPE and PEACE.

We wait with HOPE for the Prince of Peace to come.

Rejoice in the Lord always.

ALL: Rejoice!

And again I will say, . . .

ALL: Rejoice!

The candle reminds us of our JOY in Jesus Christ. Let us pray together.

**O God, so many places in Your world have been waiting a long time for joy. Open our
hearts to trust in Your promises, and courage to live in hopeful joy: even when we are
angry or sad, lonely or afraid.**

Jesus is near.

All: Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

CAROL *Joy to the World, verses 1-2*

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Children are excused to their Sunday school classes as we sing.

CAROL *Joy to the World, verses 3-4*

HEBREW SCRIPTURE Zephaniah 3:14-20

EPISTLE Philippians 4:4-7

GOSPEL Luke 3: 7—18

SERMON