



Worship Service for December 17, 2023
Third Sunday of Advent

Prelude	Marshall Davies
Chiming of the Hour	Marcy Schmich
Welcome	Pastor Felix
Centering Moment	Pastor Felix
Praise and Worship Song	Congregation

“We Light A Candle”

We light a candle for hope
and our world that’s longing for hope

We light a candle for hope
and our world that’s longing for hope Holy One,
shine with the fire our lives oh

We light a candle for hope
and our world that’s longing for hope

We light a candle for love
and our world that’s longing for love

We light a candle for love
and our world that’s longing for love Holy One,

shine with the fire our lives oh
We light a candle for love
and our world that's longing for love

We light a candle for joy
and our world that's longing for joy
We light a candle for joy
and our world that's longing for joy Holy One,
shine with the fire our lives oh

We light a candle for joy
and our world that's longing for joy

We light a candle for peace
and our world that's longing for peace
We light a candle for peace
and our world that's longing for peace Holy One,
shine with the fire our lives oh

We light a candle for peace
and our world that's longing for peace

Call to Worship

Marcy Schmich

LEADER: In Advent we watch and wait.

ALL: We prepare to welcome the Christ Child into the world.

LEADER: Come, Holy Child, come!

ALL: In Advent we prepare for a life of discipleship, witness, and mission.

LEADER: We watch for signs of God's presence breaking into the world.

ALL: Come, Holy Child, come!

LEADER: We watch for signs of God's Divine Nature in each of us.

ALL: Actions of compassion and grace toward each other and creation.

LEADER: Come, Holy Child, come!

ALL: Remind us of our divine essence and holy calling to joy.

***Hymn**

Marshall Davies

TNCH #122 “Come, O Long-Expected Jesus”

verses 1, 3 & 4

Come, O long-expected Jesus,
born to set all people free;
From our fears and doubts release us;
grant us your true liberty.

Born all people to deliver,
born a child, come from above!
Born to lead on earth forever,
come, be known to us as love.

By your own eternal Spirit,
come to claim us as your own;
By your all sufficient merit,
let us share your cross and crown.

Gathering Prayer**Congregation**

ALL: Creator of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for this Advent season and Christmas. We who have so much to do, seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day. We who are anxious over many things, look forward to your coming among us. We who are blessed in so many ways, long for the complete joy of your kingdom. We are one spiritual community seeking and waiting for your light. We open our hearts to be a home for Jesus.

Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Candles Ann Marie Kenneddy

It is the season of short days and long nights. We light this candle of joy to remember that even in natural darkness, our lights shine. Let us slow down and listen to the sacred voice

which is our guide, as we wait to celebrate the coming light in the Child Jesus.

Biblical Witness

Pastor Felix

John 1:6-9; 12 & 13

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

John 15:11

I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

Contemporary Witness

Marcy Schmich

Adapted from Thich Nhat Hanh

You are like a candle. Imagine you are sending light out all around you. All your words, thoughts and actions are going in many directions. If you say something kind, your kind words go in many directions, and you yourself go with them.

Lighting a Candle we offer its light to countless [Beings]. The peace and the joy I feel brighten the face of the Earth.

Reflection

Pastor Felix

““True Light, True Joy”

Special Music

Plymouth Choir

“Listen to the Joyful Song”

The night Christ was born an angel appeared to the shepherds saying, “Fear not! For I bring you good tidings of great joy!” And the heavens were filled with angels celebrating and singing, “Glory to God in the highest!” And we continue that celebration as the scripture commands: “Great is the Holy One of Israel among you. Shout aloud and sing for joy!”

Listen to the sound of the angels' singing, hear the joyful music fill the sky. Join with the heavenly chorus, "Glory be to God on high."

Listen to the news of the wondrous story, echo through the heavens clear and strong. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Listen to the angels singing a Christmas song.

See the shepherds kneeling at the manger worshiping the newborn King. (heaven ringing). Hear the bells of heaven ringing.

Hark! the herald angels singing.

Listen to the news of the wondrous story echo through the heavens clear and strong. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Listen to the angels singing a Christmas song.

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinner reconciled!"
Joyful all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies, with
the angelic hosts proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem.
Hark! the herald angels sing, " Glory to the newborn King!"

Listen, listen, listen, listen.

God rest ye merry gentlemen, let nothing you dismay

Listen to the angels' heavenly sound,

Remember Christ, our Savior, was born on Christmas day,
spreading good tidings all around (to).

Save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray.

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy.

Listen to the angels sing tidings of comfort and joy!

Listen to the bells in the heavens ringing.

Listen to the sound of the angels' singing.

Listen to the sound of the whole world singing,
lifting up their praises to the sky.

Join with the mighty chorus, "Glory be to God on high."

Listen to the news of the wondrous store, echo through the heavens clear and strong.

Joy to the world the Lord is come (the Lord is come)!

Listen to the angles, (Listen to the angels singing) a Christmas song!

Listen to the joyful song!

Pastoral Prayer with Joys & Concerns

Pastor Felix

Invitation to Offering

Marcy Schmich

Gender Infinity

Offertory Music

Marshall Davies

***Doxology**

Congregation

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise God all creatures here below

Praise God for all that Love has done

Creator, Christ, and Spirit one Amen.

Offertory Prayer & Dedication of Pledges

Pastor Felix

ALL: Holy One, we commit what we have offered to help sow seeds of hope, peace, joy, and love in the world. Bless now these offerings and pledges as we dedicate them in service of the life and mission of our Church. We thank our members and friends for their loyalty to a vision of growth.

Amen.

***Hymn**

Congregation

TNCH #107 "Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn"
verses 1 & 3

Awake! awake, and greet the new morn,
for angels herald its dawning,
sing out your joy, for Jesus is born,
behold! the Child of our longing.

Come as a baby weak and poor,
to bring all hearts together,
to open wide the heavenly door,
and lives now inside us forever.

In deepest night Christ's coming shall be,
when all the world is despairing,
as morning light so quiet and free,
so warm and gentle and caring.

One without voice breaks forth in song,
a lame one leaps in wonder,
the weak are raised above the strong,
and weapons are broken asunder.

Benediction

Pastor Felix

Song of Parting

Congregation

TNCH # 136 "Jesus, Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child"

Jesus, Jesus, Oh, what a wonderful child.

Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek, and mild;
new life, new hope the Child will bring.
Listen to the angels sing,
“Glory, glory, glory,” let the heavens ring!

Jesus, Jesus, Oh, what a wonderful child.
Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek, and mild;
new life, new hope the Child will bring.
Listen to the angels sing,
“Glory, glory, glory,” let the heavens ring!

Postlude

Marshall Davies

Today’s Worship Participants

Worship Leader: Marcy Schmich

Sound: Tony Trosclair

Video: Mark Vines

Projector: Amie & Shelby-Mak Friday

Rev. Felix Carrión

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