

THOSE
WHO *sow*
DREAM *joy*
3RD sunday in Advent



THE 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
A Service of the Word

December 13, 2020 ✦ 10:00 a.m.

The 3rd Sunday of Advent

“[W]e must carry forth into the world as Mary did a moral imagination. A moral imagination is grounded in the absolute belief that the world can be and will be made better—it will be just. A moral imagination envisions Isaiah’s ‘new heaven and new earth’ where the ‘wolf and the lamb shall feed together’ and thus as Mary sang, the poor and the rich shall be made equal. A moral imagination disrupts any notion that the world as it is, is the way it should be or ultimately is going to be.”

— Kelly Brown Douglas, in “To Be An Advent People”

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit gathers us in unity on the first day, the day of Christ’s resurrection

Prelude — Cello Suite No. 1 in G Major: Prelude, BWV 1007 Mvmt. 1, by J. S. Bach

Sofia DiNatale, cello

Welcome

The Rev. Matthew Emery

Greeting

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

Many: **And also with you.**

Call to Worship — *from Psalm 126*

Ken Doeg, liturgist

One: When the Lord restored the fortunes of our people,
then were we like those who dream.

Many: **Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy.**

One: Then they said among the nations,
“The Lord has done great things for them.”

Many: **The LORD has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.**

**Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.**

Hymn — “People, Look East”

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Confession & Forgiveness

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Many: Your love is good news for the oppressed, O Lord,
and you bind up the brokenhearted.

Forgive us, O God,
when we think that your good news is only for us.

Forgive us, O God,
when we twist your gospel
into something that fits comfortably into our lives.

Forgive us, O God,
when instead of decorating our very beings with joy,
we let it slip away like loose change,
and when instead of singing like Mary, or dancing like David,
we pass by remarkable beauty and love most days, unfazed.

By your light,
let us see you
leading us beyond ourselves
and into the world you love.

By your grace,
forgive us,
and free us to try again. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Lighting the Candle of Joy

Kathy Lindner & Darryl Hilliard

News from our Life Together

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

Refrain — “In the Lord I’ll Be Ever Thankful”

IN THE LORD I’LL BE EVER THANKFUL (Taizé)

In the Lord I'll be ev - er thank - ful; in the Lord I will re -

joyce! Look to God; do not be a - fraid. Lift up your
 voice - es; the Lord is near. Lift up your voice - es; the Lord is near.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading — Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Though the people had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, they continued to face hardship and oppression. In the language of the ‘jubilee year’ described in Leviticus 25, the prophet—moved by the spirit of God—announces deliverance for those who are oppressed and comfort for those who mourn.

Scripture Reading — Luke 1:46b-55

Mary, pregnant with the Christ child, responds to the greeting of her cousin Elizabeth, pregnant with the forerunner, in words of great praise, power, and prophecy: My soul magnifies the Lord!

The Early Word

Lisa Haupt

The *refrain* (“In the Lord I’ll Be Ever Thankful” – music above) is repeated.

Sermon — “Those Who Dream... sow joy”

The Rev. Matthew Emery

RESPONSE

We begin our lives of responding to the gospel in prayer and offering

Responding with our Gifts

Give online: Go to www.storrscongchurch.org and click the green “Give now...” button.

Text: Text “StorrsCongChurch” to 73256, followed by your gift amount (i.e. “StorrsCongChurch \$100”).

Those participating via Zoom are welcome to submit prayer petitions (joys and concerns) via the Chat feature.

An Offering Thought

“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.”— John 1:6-7

Like John the baptizer, we are sent as witnesses to testify to the Christ at work in the world. In addition to preparing our own hearts and minds in Advent, faithful stewards know that the Spirit gives us the power to share the good news of God among us.

OFFERTORY MUSIC — “Mein Freund ist mein” from *Wachet auf*, Cantata 140, by J. S. Bach
Sarah Marze, soprano; Jonah Garcia, bass; Jonathan Elmer, oboe; Sophia DiNatale, cello

Soprano-Bass Duet dialogue: Soul, Jesus

Mein Freund ist mein,
—und ich bin dein,—
Die Liebe soll nichts scheiden.
Ich will mit dir
—du sollst mit mir—
im Himmels Rosen weiden,
da Freude die Fülle, da Wonne wird sein.

*My Friend is mine,
—and I am yours, —
Love will never part us.
I will with You
—You will with Me—
graze among heaven’s roses,
where complete pleasure and delight will be*

The Prayers of the People, *ending with* The Lord’s Prayer

Many: 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; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and glory forever. Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us forth in mission for the world

Hymn — “Now the Heavens Start to Whisper”

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Affirmation

One: God is close,
Many: and we will rejoice.
One: The world awaits,
Many: and we will rejoice.
One: Incarnation is soon,
Many: and we will rejoice.
One: God is restoring our fortunes,
Many: and we will rejoice.
One: We shout with joy,
Many: and we will rejoice.

Blessing

Postlude — "Postlude on JEFFERSON" by Callahan

Dr. Patricia Snyder, organ

Following the postlude, the Zoom Meeting will remain open for those who wish to connect and chat—a bring-your-own-coffee “coffee hour”! We look forward to connecting with you!

Notes and Acknowledgements

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If you have any questions about how to make a contribution, or about your giving history, feel free to contact our Collector, Donna Latincsics (contact info available through the church office).

105 People, Look East

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more
 3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the
 4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more
 5 An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who

crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are
 seed is plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to
 nest that must be filled. E - ven the hour when wings are
 light the bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y
 brings new life to earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley


Peo - ple, look

a - ble; trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.
 nour - ish, that in course the flower may flour - ish.
 fro - zen God for fledg - ing time has cho - sen.
 weath - er, bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.
 hum - ming with the word, the Lord is com - ing.

This text was written to provide a new Advent text for an existing carol tune, here named for the city in eastern France where it originated. The author has imaginatively expressed the cosmic implications of Christ's coming by addressing each stanza to a part of creation.


JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT

east and sing to - day:



Peo-ple, look east: Love, the Guest, is on the way.
Love, the Rose, is on the way.
Love, the Bird, is on the way.
Love, the Star, is on the way.
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Peo-ple, look east: (Love is on the way.)



94 Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is
 2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to
 3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of

grow - ing thin. Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten
 drift a - way. Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness
 wis - dom's seed, come to bless with fire and fra - grance

to shines the stir - ring, faint with - in: seed of prom - ise, deep - ly
 com - ing day. Christ, the morn - ing star of
 hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need. In the lone - ly, in the

This Advent text artfully interweaves what is hidden and what is revealed, primarily in the coming of the long-awaited Messiah. But Christ himself taught us about another hidden truth, his presence in the “least of these” (Matthew 25:40, 45), whom we are also called to welcome.

TEXT: Mary Louise Bringle, 2005

MUSIC: Alexander Johnson's *Tennessee Harmony*, 1818; harm. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978

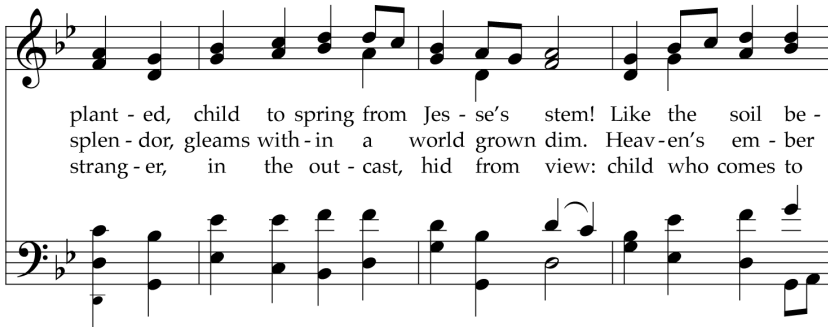
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JEFFERSON

8.7.8.7.D

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT



plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem! Like the soil be -
splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim. Heav - en's em - ber
strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view: child who comes to



neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.
fans to full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.
grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.

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