

December 14, 2025 Third Sunday of Advent
Worship Aid for Great Kills Moravian Church
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/352704864?pwd=V28wNGtRdXFESDBzRW9OSWdaQTZGZz09>

Call in number: 646 558 8656 Meeting ID: 352 704 864
Password: 401272

Prelude

Welcome/Announcement

Call to Worship: Lighting the Third Advent Candle Joy

Reader: We light again the first two candles in our Advent wreath, to remind us of God's gifts of hope and peace. Today we will light the third candle, the candle of joy.

Reader: As we wait for Christmas, the birth of Jesus, we look forward to the joyful celebrations we will share and those we love. The prophet Zephaniah calls us to shout for joy, because God will transform the people. When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the angel told the shepherds not to be afraid. The angels brought "Good news of a great joy, which shall be to all people." The good news of Jesus' birth and the promise of Shalom are still "tidings of great joy" for us today.

Reader: Paul tells us to rejoice in God always. The third candle reminds us of our joy in Jesus Christ. (*Light the third candle.*)

Let us pray together:

God of Joy, thank you for the excitement and delight we experience at this joyful time of year. Help us to share your joy with others, so that they too will be filled with your spirit. Amen.

Hymn: "O come, O come Emmanuel" MBW Page 274 verse 3

O come, O bright and morning star, and bring us comfort from afar! Dispel the shadows of the night, and turn our darkness into light. Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

Watchword For The Week: Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.
Isaiah 35:4

(Please Stand if able.)

Gathering Hymn: "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" MBW Pg. 548 vs. 1, 2, 3, 4

**O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise, the
glories of my God and King and triumphs of his grace!**

**My gracious master and my God, assist me to proclaim, to spread
through all the earth abroad the honors of your name.**

**The name of Jesus charms our fears, and bids our sorrows cease
- 'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.**

**His grace subdues the pow'r of sin; he sets the pris-'ner free, his
blood can make the foulest clean, his blood availed for me.**

(Please continue to Stand if able.)

Liturgy: Advent

MBW Page 49

Shout for joy, you heavens; rejoice, all the earth! The glory of the Lord will
be revealed, and all people together will see it. For the mouth of the Lord
has spoken.

**Rejoice greatly, shout for joy! See, your king is coming to
you. He is righteous and brings salvation.**

Hymn:

ST. THEODULPH

**Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater son! Hail in the
time appointed his reign on earth begun! He comes to break
oppression, to set the captive free, to take away transgression,
and rule in equity.**

We praise you, the Lord God of Israel! You came to the help of your people
and have set them free.

**You have raised up for us a mighty Savior, a descendant of
your servant David.**

You promised through your holy prophets long ago that you would save us from our enemies, from the power of all those who hate us.

You have shown the mercy promised to our ancestors and have remembered your holy covenant.

With a solemn oath to our ancestor Abraham, you promised to rescue us from our enemies and allow us to serve you without fear,

So that we might be holy and righteous before you all the days of our life.

By your tender mercy you cause the bright dawn of Salvation to rise on us,

To give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The voice of the messenger echoes from the desert, calling us to prepare the way of the Lord and to make a straight path on which he may come. Let us confess our sins, so that our crooked ways will be made straight and the rough ways smooth.

(Sitting)

Please Join me:

Gracious Lord Jesus, you come to us with the good news of salvation, but too often we fail to notice. You come to us day by day, yet we close the doors of our hearts when it seems convenient to do things our own way. We ignore your presence and your leadership. We have failed to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God. Forgive us, merciful Lord. May we live so that the world will know that you have come. Amen.

Through John the Baptizer, we hear the Lord's promise: turn away from your sins, and God will forgive you your sins.

Hymn:

TRURO

(Congregation sings all the verses)

Lift up your heads, you mighty gates, behold the King of Glory waits; the King of Kings is drawing near, the Savior of the world is here.

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple set apart from earthly use for heav'n's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

So, come, my Sov'-reign, enter in; let new and nobler life begin; the Holy Spirit guide us on, until our glorious goal is won.

Eternal God, Ruler of all ages, graciously you come to us in order that we might come to you, through the merit of Jesus Christ, strengthened by the Holy Spirit.

Help us and all your children to respond to the call of your gospel with faith, love, and hope.

God of faith, you created humanity to serve and praise you, and even when we rebelled against you, you promised to send a Savior to redeem us from our sins:

Strengthen our faith in your saving work through Christ. As you chose the people of Israel to hear the promise of redemption through the prophets, may people today believe in your good will for all that you have made.

God of love, you fulfilled your promise of a redeemer in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ:

Grant us the gifts of the Holy Spirit that we may share your love with the sick and the afflicted, with the poor and

**homeless, with the victims of injustice and discrimination,
and with all who are experiencing times of trouble.**

God of hope, you comfort us through your Savior's promise to return in glory at the end of time:

As we await the coming of the Prince of Peace, let us not despair. We long for you to inspire all the nations and peoples of the world to turn to cooperation and nurture, rather than to hatred and destruction.

God of faith, love, and hope, to you and to you alone we pray:

For you are our God, the only God, forever and ever. Amen.

(Standing)

Hymn: "Fling Wide the Door" MBW Page 272 vs 1, 3

Fling wide the door, un-bar the gate; The King of glo--ry comes in state; The Lord of lords and King of kings, The Sav-ior of the world who brings His great sal-va-tion to the earth. So raise a shout of ho-ly mirth and praise our God and Lord,___ Creator, Spir--it Word.___

O, hap--py towns and bless--èd lands that live by their true king's com--mands, And bless-ed be the hearts he rules, The hum-ble plac-es where he dwells. He is the right--ful Son of bliss who fills our lives and makes us his Cre-a-tor of the world,___ our on-ly strength for good.

Lord, you have kept the promise you made to our ancestors, and have come to the help of your servant people.

You remembered to show mercy to Abraham and Sarah and to all their descendants forever!

We praise you, Lord. You are enthroned in glory, yet you came and continue to come for all who will receive you. We praise you, for you are good, and your mercy endures forever.

To you be glory and power, forever and ever. Amen.

Hymn:

REGENT SQUARE

**Praise to you, O Lord, we render for your love in Jesus shown;
may that love, so strong and tender, bind us fast to him alone;
now and ever, now and ever, gather us among your own.**

(Sitting)

Young Disciple's Time

Offering Our Gifts To God: The regular offering will be collected first and then The Joyful Noise Collection. The collection is going to Moravian Open Door in Manhattan. Please have your coins ready and if you don't have coins we will take cash.

Offertory

(Standing)

Doxology: "For The Life That You Have Given" MBW Page 819

For the life that you have given, for the love in Christ made known, with these fruits of time and labor, with these gifts that are your own: here we offer, Lord, our praises; heart and mind and strength we bring. Give us grace to love and serve you, living what we pray and sing.

Prayer Of Blessing: Please join me in the Prayer of Blessing.

Majestic God, thank you for inviting us to share the blessings you pour out on us. We want to show the healing ministry of Jesus who gave sight to the blind and new insight to some who are afraid to see. You tell us to be strong, do not fear! Because you are here. Use our offerings to heal attitudes as well as bodies, to

bring peace and wholeness, not just cures. Help us to provide peace and hope as we wait for you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

(Sitting)

God's Word for Today

1st Scripture Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10 Pew Bible Page 749

Joy of the Redeemed

The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God. Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you." Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow. And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean will not journey on it; it will be for those who walk in that Way; wicked fools will not go about on it. No lion will be there, nor any ferocious beast get up on it; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there, and the ransomed of the LORD will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

2nd Scripture Reading: James 5:7-10 Pew Bible Page 1269 (Responsive Reading)

Patience in Suffering

Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains.

You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.

Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Gospel Reading: Matthew 11:2-11 Pew Bible Page 1018

Jesus and John the Baptist

When John heard in prison what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples to ask him, "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?" Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me." As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you. I tell you the truth: Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Message: The Highway of Holiness. Pastor Jesus Laguerra

Hymn Response to Message: "Come, Thou Fount of Ev'ry Blessing" MBW Page 782

Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above. Praise the mount—I'm fixed upon it—mount of God's redeeming love.

Here I find my greatest treasure; hither by thy help I've come; and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home. Jesus

**sought me when a stranger, wand'ring from the fold of God; he,
to rescue me from danger, bought me with his precious blood.**

**O, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be! Let that
grace, Lord, like a fetter, bind my wand'ring heart to thee. Prone
to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love, here's my
heart, O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.**

Prayers of The People:

**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
trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead
us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the
kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

(Please Stand if able.)

Sending Hymn: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You" MBW Page 544

**Joy-ful, joy-ful, we a-dore you, God of glo-ry, Lord of love;
hearts un-fold like flow'rs before you, o-p'ning to the sun a-bove.
Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness; drive the dark of doubt
a-way; giver of im-mor-tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day!**

**All your works with joy sur-round you, earth and heav'n re-lect
your rays, stars and an-gels sing a-round you, cen-ter of un-bro-
ken praise;field and for-est, vale and moun-tain, flow-'ry mead-
ow, flash-ing sea,chant-ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, prais-ing
you e-ter-na-lly!**

**Al-ways giv-ing and for-giv-ing, ev-er bless-ing, ev-er blessed,
well-spring of the joy of liv-ing, o-cean depth of hap-py rest!
Lov-ing Fa-ther, Christ our broth-er, let your light up-on us
shine; teach us how to love each oth-er, lift us to the joy di-vine.**

**Mor-tals join the might-y cho-rus, which the morn-ing stars be-
gan; God's own love is reign-ing o'er us, join-ing peo-ple hand in
hand. Ev-er sing-ing, march we on-ward, vic-tors in the midst of**

strife;joy-ful mu-sic leads us sun-ward in the tri-umph song of life.

Benediction:

Musical Response: (All) In the name of Jesus, Amen.

(Please remain seated in quiet meditation during the postlude.)

Postlude

Pastor and Co-Leaders: December,2025

December 21, 2025 - Sunday School Christmas Message/Lovefeast

December 24, 2025 -Pastor Jesus Laguerra/Board of Elders

December 28, 2025- Pastor Jesus Laguerra/Todd Hallett

Next Sunday, December 21, 2025, the Sunday School will be presenting their Christmas Pageant as the message. There will be a Lovefeast, also. Please come out and support the Sunday School children. We look forward to welcoming you all here.

On Wednesday, December 24, 2025 at 5:00 pm, we will be celebrating the Birth of Jesus Christ on Christmas Eve. All are welcome to come out and celebrate in our Candlelight Service.

On Sunday, December 28, 2025, we will welcome back Pastor Jesus Laguerra back into the pulpit. We look forward to seeing you all here as we sing Christmas Hymns together praising God for sending us his only Son Jesus Christ to be with us to provide hope, peace, joy and love into the world. Jesus is the reason for the season. His light shines on!!