

*Order of Worship*  
**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
9:30 am – December 11, 2022

***Participating Live?***

*Text your prayer requests to 805-309-6867 before the end of the first hymn.*

**PRELUDE**

*Advent Procession*  
Used with permission  
Lance Crane, Organ

Phil Lehenbauer

**WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (responsive)

Bob & Kathy Fierro, liturgists

L. Today there is good news for us to behold!

**P. Those who feared that they were worth little to God have found blessing in God's sight.**

L. For in the mercy and love of God, the blind shall see, the lame shall walk without pain, those who could not hear shall be blessed with hearing, and there shall be peace.

**P. God's mercy and love is poured out for our parched souls.**

L. Behold! The Lord's compassion is with God's people.

**P. Believe in the power of God in all things. Amen.**

(© Nancy Townley)

**HYMN**

*Hail to the Lord's Anointed*

UMH 203

Words: James Montgomery, 1821 – Public Domain Music: W. H. Monk, 1868 – Public Domain

1. 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.
2. He comes with succor speedy to those who suffer wrong; to help the poor and needy,  
and bid the weak be strong; to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,  
whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in his sight.
3. He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth; love, joy, and hope, like flowers,  
spring in his path to birth. Before him, on the mountains, shall peace, the herald, go,  
and righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.
4. To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend; his kingdom still increasing,  
a kingdom without end. The tide of time shall never his covenant remove;  
his name shall stand forever; that name to us is love.

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

The Salas Family

Reader : The prophet Isaiah tells us about the joy of ascending to God's house. The prophet tells us to imagine being set free, being unburdened, being released to live, to fully live in the grace and wonder of life itself, surrounded by those who love us like no one else. And then he tells us that the journey to get there is just as much a joy.

**The Psalmist says "Happy are these whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord who made heaven and earth. Who keeps faith, who executes justice, gives food, sets prisoners free, opens eyes, lifts up, watches over, and upholds. The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!"**

(Based on Psalm 146)

Reader: We light these candles, the candle of joyous hope, of proclaimed peace, and of deep and everlasting joy, as a sign that we are those who walk with a skip in our step because we can see the destination, and it is pure joy. We are ascending to God's promise.

**HYMN***O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

UMH 211

Words: Public Domain. Music: Thomas Helmore, 1854. Public Domain.

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

**Refrain:** Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

2. O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh;  
To us the path of knowledge show and cause us in her ways to go. **(Refrain)**

3. O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height  
In ancient times once gave the law in cloud and majesty and awe. **(Refrain)**

4. O come, thou Root of Jesse's tree, an ensign of thy people be;  
Before thee rulers silent fall; all peoples on thy mercy call. **(Refrain.)**

**PASTORAL PRAYER & 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. Amen.**

**CHORAL OFFERING***How Lovely Are the Messengers*

Mendelssohn, arr. Hal Hopson

Words and music: ©1992 Hope Publishing Company. One License #227169  
Chancel Choir, Clara Johnson—Director, Lance Crane—accompanist

How lovely are the messengers that preach us the gospel of peace.  
To all the nations is gone forth the sound of their words, throughout all the lands their glad tidings

**SCRIPTURE**

*Isaiah 35 : 1-10 (NRSV)*  
*Matthew 11: 2-11 (NRSV)*

Bob &amp; Kathy Fierro, liturgists

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

**MESSAGE**

Pastor Matt McPhee

**MUSICAL RESPONSE***While We Are Waiting, Come* (Verse 1)

CCLI / Streaming: 345977 / 20105371 / CCLI Song # 27525

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.  
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Redeeming God, you sent us your messenger, John the Baptist, to prepare our hearts and souls for the coming of Christ. Multiply these gifts to echo his message of your greatness and glory. Open our ears to the needs of your people shrouded in depression and despair. Use our voices to tell your stories and to lead others into the community of Christian fellowship. Let our actions of faithful giving be a beacon of our complete devotion to your guidance in our lives. We pray to your glory forever and ever. Amen.

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1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.
2. Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

*Rejoice! Rejoice!*  
Used with permission  
Lance Crane, organ

Phil Lehenbauer

*Prayer Requests*

**Bethel Korean Mission Church—Pastor Kisung Nam**

**Atascadero UMC—Pastor Michelle Park**

Ross Matarazzo—recovering from surgery

All those suffering from illness or loss of loved ones.