

**First United Methodist Church of Freehold
Bulletin**

**Sunday, December 12, 2021
3rd Sunday in Advent
JOY**

Announcements: Dan Tagatac

Prelude: "Come, O Redeemer, Come" Fernando Ortega

Welcome: Pastor Wil Wilson

***Call to Worship:**

Leader: God has called us to gather as beloved children.

People: "Here we are, the servants of the Lord."

Leader: God calls us into unknown places that we could never foresee for ourselves.

People: Even amid uncertainty, we rejoice because God is with us.

Leader: In the face of fear, let us take a "leap of faith" into the unknown.

All: We are ready, "Nothing is impossible with God!"

***Opening Prayer: (In Unison)**

Eternal God, thank you that you loved us so much that you sent your son to be born of a virgin, to become our savior. Thank you that he died for us and rose again, so that we could have his resurrected life in us. He truly is our salvation. Thank you for his life, his example, and his redeeming work on Calvary's cross. May the name of Jesus be lifted high today. Amen.

*Opening Hymn: "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" UMH #213

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Candle of JOY

The Perez Velazques and Sanchez Velazques Family

Hymn: "Emmanuel, Emmanuel" UMH #204
(Sung during the Advent Wreath lighting)

*Hymn: "Joy to the World" UMH #246

Prayer Hymn: "Standing on the Promises" UMH #374

Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Lan Wilson

The Lord's Prayer: UMH #895

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:26-38 Lyn Johnson

Sermon: "God with Mary, the Faithful" Pastor, Lan Wilson

Offering: The Special Offering for December will benefit Local Charities: E.H.A.P, Habitat for Humanity and Open Door

Offertory: "Rejoice and Sing; Glad Tidings" FUMC Choir

*Doxology: "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" UMH #95

Offertory Prayer Pastor, Wil Wilson

God of Endless Possibilities, we often try to put you in a box. We are sure we know how you will work in the world and in our lives. Help us to see you with Mary's eyes. She simply believed and trusted in your word and your promises. May we give with trusting hearts, believing you will do things with our gifts we can't even imagine. Remind us, during this Advent season, that you make all things possible. Amen.

*Passing of the Peace

*Closing Hymn: "Let There Be Peace on Earth" UMH #431
Featuring the FUMC Choir

*Benediction: Pastor, Lan Wilson

Scripture Passage for Sunday, December 12, 2021

Liturgist: Lyn Johnson

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born ³⁶ will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

**Opening Hymn:
“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”**

Lift up your heads, ye 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 heaven's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come, with us abide;
Our hearts to Thee we open wide;
Let us thy inner presence feel;
Thy grace and love in us reveal.

Thy Holy Spirit lead us on
Until our glorious goal is won;
Eternal praise, eternal fame
Be offered, Savior, to thy name!

**Advent Candle Lighting Hymn:
“Emmanuel, Emmanuel”**

Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
His name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us,
His name is called, Emmanuel.

**Hymn:
“Joy to the World”**

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.

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.

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.

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.

**Prayer Hymn:
“Standing on the Promises”**

Standing on the promises of Christ my King,
Through eternal ages let His praises ring;
Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,
Standing on the promises of God.

Standing, standing,
Standing on the promises of God my Savior;
Standing, standing,
I'm standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
By the living Word of God I shall prevail,
Standing on the promises of God.

Standing, standing,
Standing on the promises of God my Savior;
Standing, standing,
I'm standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,
Bound to Him eternally by love's strong cord,
Overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,
Standing on the promises of God.

Standing, standing,
Standing on the promises of God my Savior;
Standing, standing,
I'm standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises I cannot fall,
Listening to every moment to the Spirit's call,
Resting in my Savior as my all in all,
Standing on the promises of God.

Standing, standing,
Standing on the promises of God my Savior;
Standing, standing,
I'm standing on the promises of God.

**Closing Hymn:
“Let There Be Peace on Earth”**

Let there be peace on earth,
And let it begin with me;
Let there be peace on earth,
The peace that was meant to be.
With God our creator,
Children all are we.
Let us walk with each other
In perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me;
Let this be the moment now.
With every step I take,
Let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment
And live each moment
In peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth,
And let it begin with me.