



LA JOLLA
UNITED METHODIST

**Come Home for Christmas:
The Joy of Home**

Sunday, December 12, 2021

Third Sunday of Advent

www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Prelude *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came* Arr. Hal Hopson

Choral Introit *View the Present through the Promise* Welsh Melody
Chancel Choir

Welcome

† **Opening Music** *Down by the Jordan* W & S 3045

1. Down by the Jordan,
a prophet named John was baptizing,
preaching a message
the people found bold and surprising.

“God will forgive!
Show that you’ll change how you live!
Surely God’s new day is rising!”

2. There by the river,
the crowd came with great expectation:
“Are you God’s Chosen One,
sent here to rescue our nation?”

“No!” John replied.
“He who is mightier than I
judges and offers salvation.”

3. Jesus, you went to be baptized
along with the others,
taking your place among sinners,
God’s lost sons and daughters.

Then with great love,
God’s Spirit came as a dove!
Your work began in those waters.

4. Here in the Church,
we are baptized and filled with God’s Spirit.
Freed and forgiven we’re welcomed with joy!
Can you hear it?

This is God’s sign!
This is how God says, “You’re mine!”
Let’s take the good news and share it!

Lighting the Advent Candle of Joy

Don & Mary Jane Lincoln

Advent Response

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel v3

UMH211

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.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

Blessing for Children

Prayers of the People

*A Pastor will begin a time of prayer and name those for whom our congregation is praying.
A time of silence will indicate when you may share one name or very short phrase to add.*

Pastoral Prayer

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. Amen.

Choral Response

How Great Our Joy
Chancel Choir

German Carol

WE HEAR OF THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Scripture

Luke 3:7-18 (CEB)

Then John said to the crowds who came to be baptized by him, "You children of snakes! Who warned you to escape from the angry judgment that is coming soon? Produce fruit that shows you have changed your hearts and lives. And don't even think about saying to yourselves, Abraham is our father. I tell you that God is able to raise up Abraham's children from these stones. The ax is already at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that doesn't produce good fruit will be chopped down and tossed into the fire."

The crowds asked him, "What then should we do?"

He answered, "Whoever has two shirts must share with the one who has none, and whoever has food must do the same."

Even tax collectors came to be baptized. They said to him, "Teacher, what should we do?"

He replied, "Collect no more than you are authorized to collect."

Soldiers asked, "What about us? What should we do?"

He answered, "Don't cheat or harass anyone, and be satisfied with your pay."

The people were filled with expectation, and everyone wondered whether John might be the Christ. John replied to them all, "I baptize you with water, but the one who is more powerful than me is coming. I'm not worthy to loosen the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. The shovel he uses to sift the wheat from the husks is in his hands. He will clean out his threshing area and bring the wheat into his barn. But he will burn the husks with a fire that can't be put out." With many other words John appealed to them, proclaiming good news to the people.

Scriptural Response

Liturgist: The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Anthem *The Celtic Rose* Arr. Sheldon Curry
Chancel Choir

Message *The Joy of Home* Rev. Bob Rhodes

WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Response in the World

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory *Jazz Fantasy on Mozart* Fazil Say

† **Doxology** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* UMH 94

Confession, Assurance, and Peace

All: Source of compassion and grace, we yearn to embody the joy of your salvation, but we are easily distracted by the demands of the season; we long to taste the wellspring of your mercy, but we are caught up in the frenzy of the holidays. Be our quiet center, that we may find your joy deep within. Be our secret heart, that we may live lives of love wherever we go. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

Liturgist: The one who loves us with a fierce tenderness takes away our guilt and leads us in the ways of life. The one who guides us with justice and mercy restores our fortunes and leads us home. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

WE FOLLOW CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

† Closing Music

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

UMH 213

1. 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!
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Thy Holy Spirit lead us on
until our glorious goal is won;
eternal praise, eternal fame
be offered, Savior, to thy name!

Benediction

Postlude

The Heavens Declare

Benedetto Marcello

Liturgist: Don Lincoln

Organist: Bob Wuertz

Pianist: Zishan Ding, Rebecca Cosford

Ushers: Cindy Rushing, Team Leader

Audio Visual Team: Dave Flores, Emilio Valente, Cam Rhodes

† Indicates for those who are able to stand in body or in spirit
Liturgical elements from Abingdon Worship Annual

LJUMC Ministry Team

Rev. Bob Rhodes, Lead Pastor; Rev. Derek Nguyen, Pastor of Spiritual Development;
Bob Wuertz, Music Ministries Director; Theresa Erb, Administrative Assistant;
Joyce Drozda, NS & Church Accountant; Emilio Valente, Information Technology Director;
Bridget Musante, NS Executive Director