

Holy Trinity United Methodist Church

December 17, 2023

9:30am

Theme: How Does A Weary World Rejoice?

If you have a prayer request today, please fill out the card in your pew rack and hand it to an usher prior to the Prayers of the People.

Prelude

Welcome

*Song of Praise "Forever" W&S 3023

*Greeting

Leader: Our God can part the sea.

People: God can bring water from a rock, and provide bread in the desert.

Leader: Our God can walk on water.

People: He can heal the sick, and turn water into wine.

Leader: Our God sets the stars in the sky.

People: God hears our voice when we cry, and is closer than our own breath.

Leader: There is nothing our God cannot do.

ALL: Let us stand in awe. Let us worship God with wonder.

The Lighting of the Third Advent Candle The Zehnder Family

Leader: How does a weary world practice joy?

Congregation: By dancing, and throwing birthday parties.

Leader: By hanging Christmas lights, and holding sleepy babies. By singing loudly, and looking for good news.

Congregation: By telling the story of Jesus, and showing up for our community.

Leader: There are a million ways to practice joy. So today we light the candle of joy as a reminder and a charge. (Light the third candle)

ALL: With God's help, may we bring joy into a weary world. Amen.

Opening Prayer (unison)

God of the universe, make our hearts porous. Open our eyes, as if for the first time, so that we might see your world with awe and wonder once again. We often approach scripture with an analytical lens, intellectualizing the stories heard,

bringing historical context and textual criticism to the table. For just a moment, pause those instincts to make room for wonder. Help us greet this text with awe and gratitude before we begin dissecting it for truth. For I am confident, that in doing so, we will not only find you in the hallways of our thoughts, but in the pathways of our hearts. With gratitude we pray: keep us open. Amen.

The Reception of New Members Begins on Hymnal p.33

Prayer Song "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" (vs 1) Hymnal 196

Prayers of the People/Our Lord's Prayer

Prayer Song "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" (vs 1) Hymnal 196

Gospel Reading Luke 1:57-66

Children's Message

*Hymn "Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart" (vs 1-3) Hymnal 160

Sermon "We Allow Ourselves to Be Amazed" Pastor Chad Gilbertson

*Hymn "All Earth Is Waiting" Hymnal 210

Offering/Offertory

Prayer of Dedication

O Lord, you have done great things for us. As we rejoice in your blessings, let us also rejoice in the opportunity to spread your joy to others through these offerings. May these gifts help transform our community and our world. May they bring your kingdom of justice, that we may all shout with joy! AMEN.

Announcements

*Benediction

Leader: Family of faith, as you leave this place, you go into a weary world — so speak tenderly.

People: We will do the good that is ours to do, choose connection, hold onto hope.

Leader: And remember that Christ took on flesh for you. You are God's beloved. So go rejoicing. The world needs it.

ALL: AMEN!

*Hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (vs 3) Hymnal 211

Postlude

Worship Leaders

Pastor: Chad Gilbertson
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Church Admin: Tina Chant
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(952) 447-2990

Children, Youth & Family Coordinator:
Lynnette Dobberpuhl
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(651) 492-8188

Choir Director: Randi Erlandson
Pianist/Organist: Randi Erlandson
Liturgist: Sarah Banitt
Ushers: Tracey Deren & Marla Fulkerson

This Week:

Monday, Dec. 18	9:30am 6:30pm 7:00pm	AA (Parsonage) Core Team Meeting Al-Anon (Parsonage)
Tuesday, Dec. 19	1:00pm 7:00pm	Lakefront Bible Study Co-Dependents Anonymous (Parsonage)
Wednesday, Dec. 20	8:30am 6:15pm 6:30pm	Moment of Prayer for Holy Trinity 7th/8th Confirmation (Parsonage) Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, Dec. 21	6:00pm 7:00pm	Veterans AA (Parsonage) Longest Night Worship Service
Sunday, Dec. 24	9:30am 5:00pm 10:00pm	Worship/Live-Stream—A Song of Hope Cantata All Ages Playful Nativity Worship Service Traditional Christmas Eve Worship Service

Prayer Requests:

Paula Johnson—hip replacement surgery on December 7. Please pray for her healing and strengthening.

Dick Erbes' sister, Dianne—has a blood clot in her lung.

Rene M.—prayer of joy and gratitude for a healthy GREAT grandson!

Remember Liz W., please.

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THIRD SUNDAY
OF
Advent

December 17, 2023
9:30am

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Pastor Chad Gilbertson