CHRISTMAS CANTATA "HOLY CHILD"

Director: Dana Moody Narrator: Dr. Daniel Etheridge

"How Great Our Joy!" with "Jesus, Joy of Earth and Heaven"

Choir; quartet: Casey Bailey, Ann Lee, Don Moody, Ned Alderman

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" with "Come, Lord Jesus" Choir; solo: Shellene Castellow

"Great and Wonderful" Choir

At the Manger: "A Manger Song," "Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head," "Child in a Manger"

Choir; soloists: Kay Hill, Lisa Bailey

"Gloria" with "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Choir

"Not Just Any Night"

Choir

"Everything Within Me Worships You" Choir; solo: Debbie Rippard

"The Jesus Gift" Choir; solo: Monica Whitehurst

Celebrate His Name: "His Name," "No Other Name," "O Come, Let Us Adore Him" Choir

SENDING FORTH

Go forth and magnify the Lord.

We will rejoice in God, our Savior.

Go forth and live in the Lord.

We will draw strength from the one who scattered the proud and brought down the powerful from their thrones.

Go forth and bless God's holy name.

We will give glory and honor to the Lord, our God.

Go with God.

POSTLUDE "Gloria" DANA MOODY



"God's Body in this Community"

"Oaklette United Methodist Church through worship, education, and outreach, seeks to make the gospel of Jesus Christ real, as we minister to all people."

December 14, 2025 Third Sunday of Advent

Welcome in the name of our Lord. A nurturing and well-supervised nursery is available for infants and young children. A cry room is also available. Please ask the greeter for further assistance and directions to these rooms.

GREETING

JOYS AND CONCERNS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BREAKTHROUGH PRAYER

Loving, sustaining God, like the mighty oak, may our branches at Oaklette church embrace those around us in this community. Use us as an instrument to welcome and shelter your people. Deepen our roots so that our branches are strong. Let the Holy Spirit flow like a river through our church so that we may do your will. In Jesus' holy name, Amen.

OPENING SCRIPTURE Luke 1:46b-55 NRSV

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name; indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

JOSHUA VANNOY

In the midst of our waiting and longing for God to make the world right again, we cling to the truth that God has saved, God is saving, and God will save. So today, we join our voices with the prophet Isaiah, who calls us to live in the joy of the truth of God's salvation

We choose to believe that the day is coming when "the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away."

We light this candle of joy as a sign of the Truth that sets us free to live in joy as we wait and work for the day when all creation will flourish together.

PRELUDE

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

DANA MOODY

MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

CALL TO WORSHIP, PSALM 146:5-10, NRSV

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free;

the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

The LORD watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD!"

OPENING PRAYER

Holy God of Joy, we rejoice in the reality of who you are. We live within the joy of your love for us. Our contentment comes and goes. Our happiness ebbs and flows. Our feelings depend upon our circumstances, our physical health, our brain chemistry. But our joy is deeply rooted in our identity as your beloved children. And we give you thanks. Amen.

Written by Joanna Harader and posted on Spacious Faith, http://spaciousfaith.com/. Reposted on the re:Worship blog at https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2015/12/call-to-worship-prayer-for-advent.html.

HYMN

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

#211, vv. 1, 2, 4

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

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

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let the desert rejoice, and let the dry land be glad, for God has come to save us. Let us confess our sin.

God of majesty and glory, we are thirsty for your grace. You made a way for us in the wilderness, and still, in our foolishness, we go astray. We hide our eyes from your presence. We do not listen to your word. We are lifeless when we ought to dance and speechless when we ought to sing. Forgive us, O Lord. Speak peace to our fearful hearts, strengthen our weak hands, and make firm our feeble knees as we seek to follow in your holy way. Amen. Now return to the Lord with joy and gladness. Sing a song of redemption! Let sorrow and sighing be no more. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

Long, Kimberly Bracken. Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1 (pp. 10-11). Presbyterian Publishing

Corporation. Kindle Edition.

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.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

As a farmer plants the seeds and waits for the rains to come, let us entrust our gifts to the Lord as we await the coming of God's reign.

Long, Kimberly Bracken. Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1 (p. 12). Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. Kindle Edition.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

Great music and little birds remind us of your majesty. Huge sums of money and a widow's coin are both honored when given to tell of your love, your justice, and your mercy. Receive these offerings as signs that we remember that you are greater than our music or our money, for you are the root of it all. Most of all, we marvel that you love us. We are saying thank you, God, as we present this offering in Jesus' name. Amen.

Worship & Song, Worship Resources Edition copyright 2011 by Abingdon Press

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him all creatures here below. Praise him above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Today's service is being broadcast on Facebook Live at 11 am. You can access the service through the Oaklette Church Group on Facebook. You can also access the sermon through the Oaklette UMC Facebook page. If you are unable to use Facebook Live a link can be sent to you by email after the Facebook Live Worship has been recorded, but we will need your email address to do this. The Facebook Live service will also be downloaded to our website on Monday morning.

In lieu of cards, Daniel and Diana Etheridge have made a donation to Oaklette UMC

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of Dana Moody and in memory of Chip Payette

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY TODAY

Members of the Church
Nursery Care Providers: Lisa & Brooks Ryno
Lay Reader: Lisa Bailey
Prayer partner: Brenda Swoope
Audio-Visual Operator: Danny Castellow
Greeter: Joanne Rooks
Pastor: Rev. Ned Alderman
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