

BERN REFORMED UCC WORSHIP - DECEMBER 15th, 2024



PRELUDE: "Away In A Manger "

-arr. Bish

TODAY'S SINGLE FLOWER is in recognition of Joan MacKnight's Birthday on December 19th.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

"LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY"

Zephaniah 3:14-19 Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! **Rejoice** and exult with all your heart! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, He will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. The Lord saith "I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors. I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth!"

RESPONSIVE READING: "Canticle" First Song of Isaiah (12:2-6)

LEADER: Surely, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be afraid.
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, and he will be my Savior.

PEOPLE: Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing from the springs of salvation.

LEADER: On that day you shall say, Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name; Make his deeds known among the peoples; see that they remember that his Name is exalted.

PEOPLE: Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, and this is known in all the world.

LEADER: Cry aloud, ring out your JOY, for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

PEOPLE: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.

NEW CENTURY HYMN # 107 "AWAKE, AWAKE!"

**1 Awake! Awake & greet the new morn, for angels herald
its dawning.**

**Sing out your joy, for Jesus is born, behold the Child of
our longing.**

**Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,
To open wide the heavenly door, and lives now inside us forever.**

**2 To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Emmanuel comes a-singing,
Whose humble song is quiet & near, yet fills the earth with
its ringing.**

**Music to heal the broken soul and hymns of loving kindness,
The thunder of the anthems roll to shatter all hate and injustice.**

**3 In deepest night Christ's coming shall be, when all the world
is despairing,**

**As morning light so quiet and free, so warm and gentle
and caring.**

**One without voice breaks forth in song, a lame one leaps
in wonder,**

**The weak are raised above the strong, and weapons are
broken asunder.**

**4 Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, though cold the winter
and cheerless.**

**The rising sun shall crown you with light, be strong and loving
and fearless;**

**Love be our song and love our prayer, and love, our endless
story,**

May God fill every day we share, and bring us at last into glory.

EPISTLE: Philippians 4:4-7 "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near! Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18 John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. "And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

SERMON: "JOY" "How, What, When. Where, Why?"

CHOIR ANTHEM: "Will You Make Room?" *-Gaines/Schram*

PRAYERS

A PRAYER: For HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE

Heavenly Father, in Your infinite Love and Grace we humbly seek the pure Joy only You can provide! Teach us to find Joy no matter our situations. Thank You that your son has revealed how both Joy and Peace can preside in our heart regardless of our situations. Only Your gifts of Peace, Love, and Joy can surmount the obstacles that distract us. Thank You for the moments of Joy that brighten our days, the Love that fills our hearts, and the Hope and trust that seeks and finds the good things in our lives! Help us through Your abiding presence to always remember to count our blessings and to give thanks in all our circumstances!

OUR LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN #120 "JOY TO THE WORLD"

- 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 & nature sing, And Heaven & Heaven, and nature sing.**
- 2. Joy to the World! the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks hills & plains repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.**
- 3. He rules the world with truth & grace, & 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!**

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" *-Biery*

Attendance last week 76

NOTE: NEXT SUNDAY IS OUR CANTATA