

Third Sunday in Advent
December 11, 2022



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF FRESNO
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rev. Dr. Norman Broadbent,
Guest Preaching

Third Sunday in Advent

December 11, 2022

“Calm and Bright: Joy

Prelude

“Gesu, Bambino” - P. Yon

Scott Horton, organ

“How Far Is It to Bethlehem?” Trad. English Carol; arr. Derek Hakes

Handbell Choir

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Norman Broadbent

Threshold Introit “One Candle Is Lit” (Cradle Song Away in the Manger)

Congregation and
Chancel Choir

Come festively sing while awaiting the birth,

Join angels in dancing from heaven to earth;

Wave banners of good news, lift high thankful praise.

One candle is lit for the joy of this day.

Lighting the Third Candle - JOY

Mary Leas Stegall and Penny Leas Peterson

L: The season of waiting is almost over. We light the first candle, anticipating the coming light of the star that shone over Bethlehem for all to see.

God of our future, we open ourselves to hear your call today— the call to keep hope alive no matter the troubles we face. Help us to never lose hope and to offer hope to all around us— making our lives, our families, our communities, and our world a brighter place.

All: *Fill us with your hope and light, to make the world so calm and bright.*

***Hymn**

“With Joy Draw Water”

#109 pew hymnal

Unison Advent Collect

Gayle Thornton, Liturgist

Come, Lord, Jesus- our choicest gift, our dearest guest: Let not our hearts be crowded rooms that have no space for you, but a quiet home of prayer and praise; where the cares of life are put aside and wide, sweet spaces are left for you as we prepare to celebrate the gift of the Christ-child embracing the earth with glory and being for us a vital Peace in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Special Music

“Carol of the Bells” - M. Leontovich; arr. D. Wagner

Handbell Choir

Children's Time for Discovery Colors of Advent – Yellow

***Draw the circle wide; draw it wider still. Let this be our song-
no one stands alone standing side by side, draw the circle wide.***

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- ♦ Children bring their yellow strips of cloth to the manger; the rest of congregation may follow-

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

*Hymn

"My Soul Gives Glory To My God"

#119 pew hymnal

Today's Readings

Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 1:39-45

Prompting

"Glories Stream in Joy"

Rev. Dr. Broadbent

Sung Invitation to Prayer

***Lord, listen to your children praying;
Lord, send your Spirit in this place.
Lord, listen to your children praying:
send us love, send us power, send us grace.***

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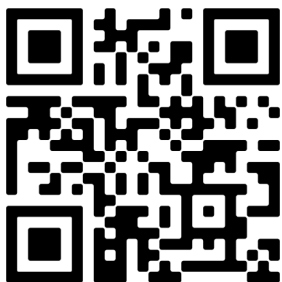
Church at Prayer

(Prayers of Concern, Pastoral Prayer)

Rev. Dr. Broadbent

Invitation to Offering

Gayle Thornton, Liturgist



Here at the Big Red Church, everyone counts, and every gift counts!

- ⇒ ***There are two donation boxes and giving envelopes for your gifts in the Narthex (the area where an usher handed you an Order of Worship).***
- ⇒ ***You can also give through the Givelify App by scanning the QR code with your smartphone camera.***
- ⇒ ***BigRedChurch.org/Giving/ has more instructions, links, and information about giving to the church. Thank you for supporting and joining in the ministry of this church.***

Offertory

"My Heart Shall Sing" (Trad. Irish) - R. Cooney, arr. K. Marrolli Chancel Choir

Jane Davis-Maldonado, piano

John Morrice, violin

Justin Larson, djembe

***Doxology and dedication**

***We give God but God's own, whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is God's alone, we give it gratefully. Amen.***

***Announcements and closing thoughts**

***Hymn**

"Joyful, Joyful We Adore You"

4 pew hymnal

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Broadbent

Blessing Hymn

"Go Now in Peace"

**Go now in peace, never be afraid; God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true; know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love and show you believe. Reach out to others so all the world will see
God will be there, watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.
Amen. Amen. Amen.**

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Postlude

"Fum, Fum, Fum!" - R. Lind

Scott Horton, organ

It is our tradition to be seated for the Postlude



This Week at Big Red

Monday December 12

- ♦ 5:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

Tuesday, December 13

♦

Wednesday December 14

- ♦ 8:00am: Bible Study - Zoom
- ♦ 5:00pm: Yoga - Room 1
- ♦ 6:00pm: Handbell rehearsal - Music Room
- ♦ 7:00pm: Chancel Choir rehearsal - Sanctuary

Thursday December 15

♦

Friday December 16

- ♦ 09:00am: BRC Pantry food distribution prep - Fellowship Hall
- ♦ 5:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

Saturday December 17

- ♦ 10:00am: BRC Pantry Food Distribution - Fellowship Hall

Sunday December 18

- ♦ 09:00am: Roots and Branches - Fireside Room
- ♦ 10:00am: "Highway to the Manger Zone" - Sanctuary
- ♦ 11:00am: Coffee Hour "Let's All Eat Cake" - Fellowship Hall
- ♦ 11:45am: Naomi House Backpack Event - Parlor

3PM TODAY!



*Featuring the Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir
& Musicians of First Congregational Church*

First Congregational Church of Fresno
"The Big Red Church"

2131 N. Van Ness Boulevard
Fresno, CA 93704
559.227.8489

Free Concert - Free-will offering will benefit the Casavant Pipe Organ Fund



Blue Christmas / Longest Night Service

December 21, 7:00 pm. Minturn Chapel

Unless we have lived through December heartbroken, it may not cross our minds how hard the lead-up to Christmas can feel for people in the midst of loss, failure, or hopelessness. Depression and seasonal affected disorders also make this season difficult to fully embrace this season.

This service is designed to name, acknowledge, and create an emotional path toward a more realistic way toward Christmas.

First Congregational Church of Fresno

2131 N. Van Ness Blvd., Fresno, CA 93704 | (559) 227-8489

Office Hours: Monday – Friday

9:00 am – 3:30 pm

Guest Preaching

Rev. Dr. Norman Broadbent

Music Director/Organist

Scott Horton

Caretaker/ Event Coordinator

Pat Morales

Accountant

Penny Leas Peterson

Office Administrator

Kymberly Lindsey

Office@bigredchurch.org

Custodian

Gregory Chavarria

Technicians

Karisa Garza

Brad Jenkins

Assisting in Today's Service

Organist: Scott Horton

Liturgist: Gayle Thornton

Advent Candle Lighters: Mary Leas Stegall & Penny Leas Peterson

Ushers: Bruce Owdom, Cliff Dodd, Teresa Fuentes

Technician: Karisa Garza

Coffee Hour: Pete Espinoza

FCCF Open and Affirming Statement

We believe that all people are sacred creations of a loving God. We affirm the diversity that exists among us. We strive to answer the call of Christ by extending his love, compassion and acceptance to everyone. In this spirit, we open our family of faith to people of every religious background, sexual orientation, family composition, physical and mental ability, race, age and gender.

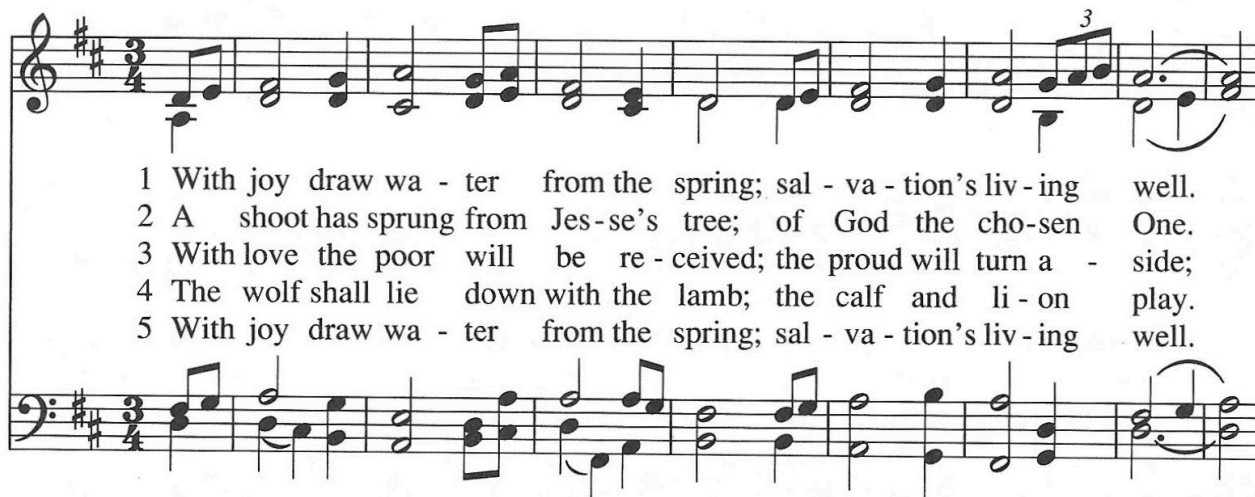
As Christians, we experience God's reconciling love. In response we stand with those who suffer discrimination, isolation and alienation. We welcome all people to participate fully in our church's life and ministry. We celebrate the variety of talents and perspectives which flow into our spiritual community, continuing to enrich us in ways we could not have predicted or envisioned.

With Joy Draw Water

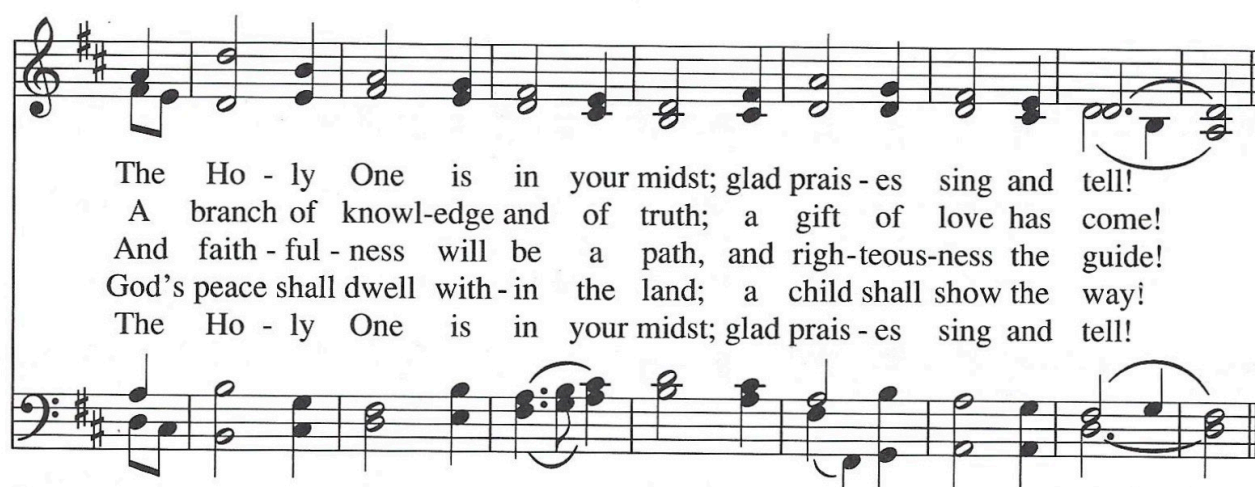
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Anne McKinstry, 1986, 1993

Isa. 11:1-10; 12:2-6



1 With joy draw wa - ter from the spring; sal - va - tion's liv - ing well.
 2 A shoot has sprung from Jes - se's tree; of God the cho - sen One.
 3 With love the poor will be re - ceived; the proud will turn a - side;
 4 The wolf shall lie down with the lamb; the calf and li - on play.
 5 With joy draw wa - ter from the spring; sal - va - tion's liv - ing well.



The Ho - ly One is in your midst; glad prais - es sing and tell!
 A branch of knowl - edge and of truth; a gift of love has come!
 And faith - ful - ness will be a path, and righ - teous - ness the guide!
 God's peace shall dwell with - in the land; a child shall show the way!
 The Ho - ly One is in your midst; glad prais - es sing and tell!

This text combines images from two Advent readings from the book of Isaiah, including the passage anticipating the reign of peace. The author, Anne McKinstry, has served as a writer-in-residence at Otis United Church of Christ in Massachusetts.

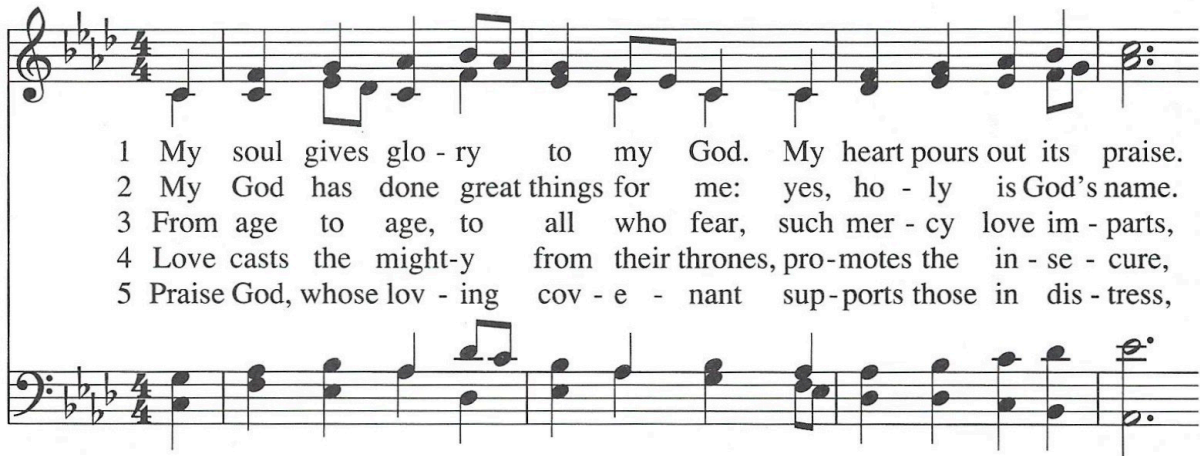
Tune: ST. COLUMBA altered to 8.6.8.6.
 Irish traditional melody
 Harm. Charles V. Stanford, 1906

My Soul Gives Glory to My God

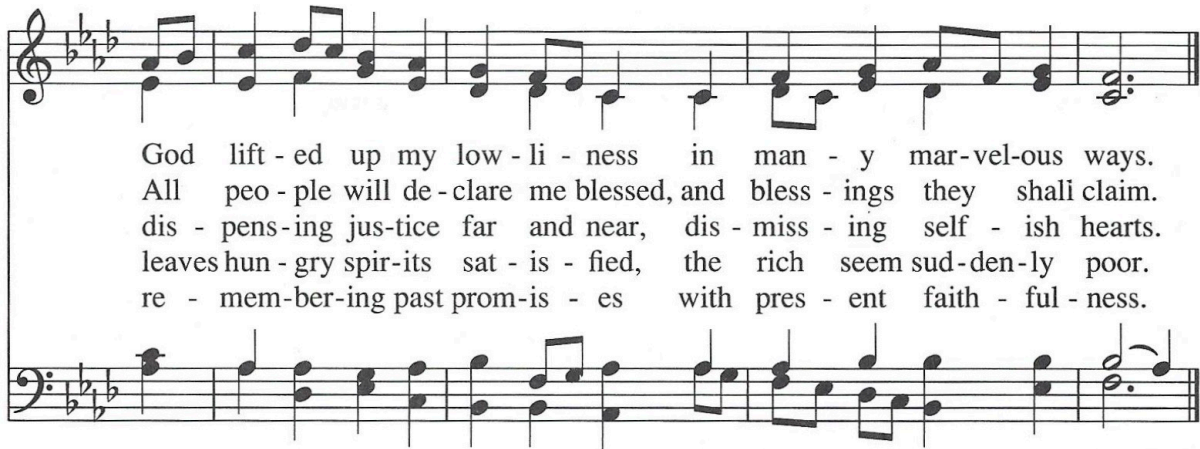
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Miriam Therese Winter, 1987

Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Sam. 2:1-10



1 My soul gives glo - ry to my God. My heart pours out its praise.
2 My God has done great things for me: yes, ho - ly is God's name.
3 From age to age, to all who fear, such mer - cy love im - parts,
4 Love casts the might-y from their thrones, pro-motes the in - se - cure,
5 Praise God, whose lov - ing cov - e - nant sup-ports those in dis - tress,



God lift - ed up my low - li - ness in man - y mar-vel-ous ways.
All peo - ple will de - clare me blessed, and bless - ings they shall claim.
dis - pens-ing jus-tice far and near, dis - miss - ing self - ish hearts.
leaves hun - gry spir-its sat - is - fied, the rich seem sud-den-ly poor.
re - mem-ber-ing past prom-is - es with pres - ent faith - ful - ness.

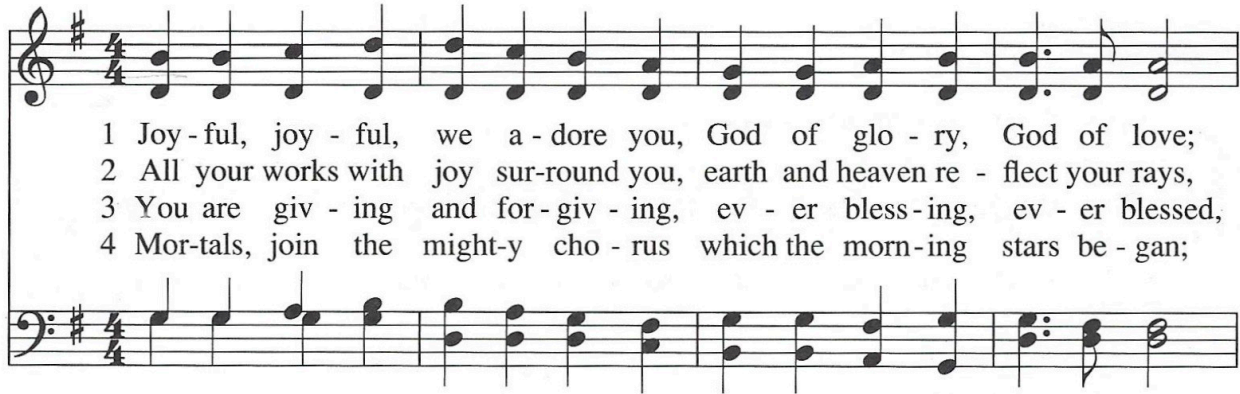
This New Testament canticle, with its mosaic of liberation motifs that proclaim the justice of God, is known as the "Magnificat," the opening word of its Latin translation.

Tune: MORNING SONG C.M.
Melody from Kentucky Harmony, 1816
Harm. C. Winfred Douglas, 1940

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

Ps. 145:10; Isa. 49:13

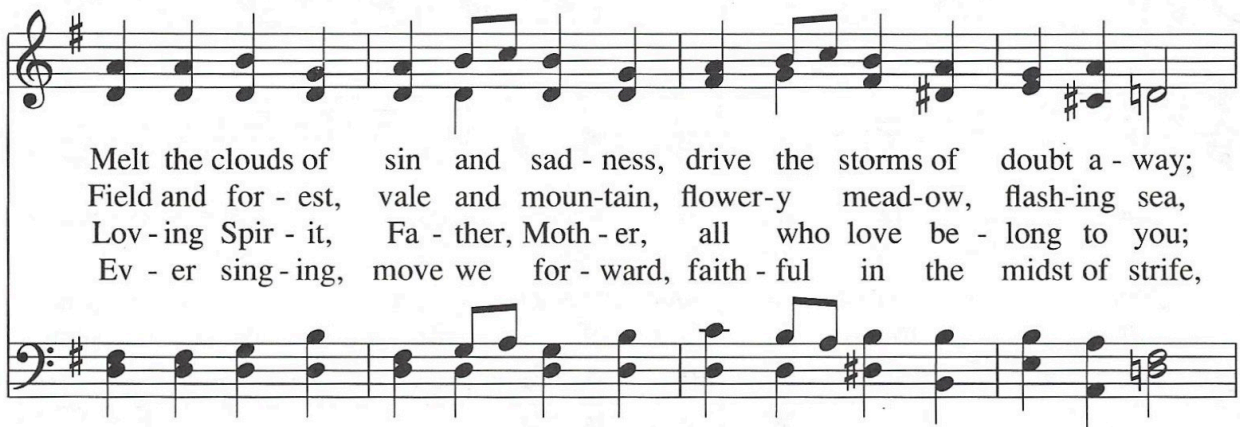
Henry van Dyke, 1907; alt.



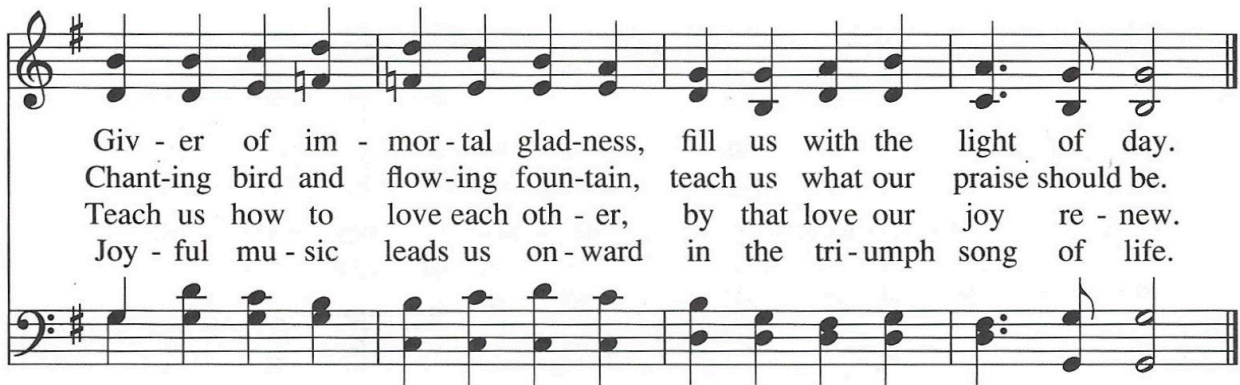
1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore you, God of glo - ry, God of love;
 2 All your works with joy sur-round you, earth and heaven re - flect your rays,
 3 You are giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blessed,
 4 Mor-tals, join the might-y cho - rus which the morn-ing stars be - gan;



Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore you, open-ing to the sun a - bove.
 Stars and an - gels sing a - round you, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean depth of hap - py rest!
 Bound-less love is reign - ing o'er us, re - con - cil - ing race and clan.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the storms of doubt a - way;
 Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, flower-y mead-ow, flash-ing sea,
 Lov-ing Spir - it, Fa - ther, Moth - er, all who love be - long to you;
 Ev - er sing-ing, move we for - ward, faith - ful in the midst of strife,



Giv - er of im - mor-tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.
 Chant-ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, teach us what our praise should be.
 Teach us how to love each oth - er, by that love our joy re - new.
 Joy - ful mu - sic leads us on - ward in the tri-umph song of life.