



**OAK GROVE
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN**

DECEMBER 17, 2023

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Oak Grove Church of the Brethren
December 17, 2023 • Third Sunday of Advent

*Calling In Hymn

Angels, we have heard (vs. 1,3)

197

Welcome, Announcements, Joys, and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer, with the Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, holy is your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Lighting the Advent Candle of Joy

The congregation responds in bold.

When God's people were surrounded by hardship, suffering, and grief, Isaiah proclaimed, "The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit"(Isaiah 61:1-3a).

We come today as people who are also surrounded by suffering and grief. And yet, the Spirit hovers among us, tending and anointing, inspiring freedom where there is captivity, declaring blessing in places the world has cursed, and igniting fierce joy where mourning and heartache prevail.

We wait as people who experience hardship and pain, yet we are called to bear witness to the persistent joy that sustains our life as God's people.

We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, just peace, and fierce joy. May our lives shine with the fierce, tenacious joy of the Light who lives in our hearts as we wait and work for the coming of God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

*Prayer of Invocation

Lord Jesus, master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas, for we have so much to do, and yet seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day; we are anxious over many things, and yet look forward to your coming among us; we are blessed in so many ways, and yet long for the complete joy of your kingdom; we, whose hearts are heavy, especially seek the joy of your presence. We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light. To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!" Amen.

*Hymn

Advent Carol

17th c. carol/TimHarvey

Advent Carol 17th Century Carol

1 Come, now Christians, and re - tell the sto - ry
2 In - to mad - ness, di - vi - sion and ha - tred
3 Hol - ding frag - ments of dreams, plans, and wish - es,
of the ti - me that our God came near.
Christ has co - me to make the two one.
pulled a - part by things out of con - trol.
Christ is bo - rn, Cre - a - tor is com - ing
Swords in - to plow - shares, seed - ing new see - ing
Yet, look up! for God's ho - ly rose blos - soms,
In - to our dark - ness light for a - ll. Hope! Hope!
Heal ing the breach, his gift to a - ll. Peace! Peace!
Je - sus ar - rives, mends pie - ces whole with Joy! Joy!
Liv - ing a - mong us, bring - ing Hope! Hope!
An - gels pro - claim on earth is Peace! Peace!
Hopes are re - sewn; life clothed with Joy! Joy!
Born in a man - ger stall.

Children's Time

Lynette Harvey

Offering

*To make an online contribution,
scan the QR code on the back of the bulletin.*

Offertory Hymn

What Child is this

#215

We All Bow Down
By Marty Nystrom

Isaiah 9:6

*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder:
and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor,
The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*

WE ALL BOW DOWN

*For Unto Us a Child is Born
We All Bow Down*

Luke 2:9, 10

*"And the angel said until them,
"Fear not: for, behold, I bring you tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.
For until you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."*

COME AND WORSHIP

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

Luke 1:46-55

*And Mary said,
My soul doth magnify the Lord,
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden:
for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.*

*For he that is mighty hath done to me great things;
and holy is his name. And his mercy is on them that fear him
from generation to generation. He hath shewed strength with his arm;
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree.
He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He hath holpen his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy;
as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed forever.*

LORD OF ALL

We All Bow Down

The Love of God: Mary's Song (Soloist: Julie Hall)

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Luke 2:13, 14

*"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising
God, and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace,
good will toward all people.'"*

SING GLORY TO GOD

O Sing a Song of Bethlehem

Glory to God

Matthew 2:10, 11

*When they (the Magi) saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And
when they were come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His
mother, and fell down, and worshiped Him: and when they had opened their
treasures, they presented unto Him gifts: gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.*

WORSHIP THE KING

Here I Am to Worship (Soloists: Tim Harvey and Scott Yingling)

Come, Let Us Adore Him

Crown Him King of Kings

COME AND PRAISE

Rejoice!

Good Christians All Rejoice

Love Has Come

Glory to God

*Hymn	<i>Joy to the world (vs. 1,4)</i>	# 318
*Choral Benediction	<i>Go to Him in Bethlehem</i>	Choplin
*Postlude	<i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i>	Barnes
	*Please stand as you are able.	