

# ORMOND UNITING CHURCH



13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

ADVENT 3



May those who  
sow in tears  
reap with  
shouts of joy.

Those who go  
out weeping,  
bearing the  
seed for  
sowing,  
shall come home  
with shouts of  
joy,  
carrying their  
sheaves.

*Psalm 126*

*Congregational responses are printed in bold type*

## **WELCOME**

### **Lighting the Advent candles**

In a world of despair, where depression rates run high,  
where there is so much sadness and loss,  
**God, we call upon you to come.**

In a world where joy is a distant memory,  
**we call upon you, Great God of joy, to come.**

In this season of Advent, we wait for the coming of Joy into our world. We  
await the birth of the Anointed One, the Promised Child, who comes into  
our lives in a new way.

**Come, Messiah, Come, and Save Us**

*Light the third candle, along with the first two already lit*

Dear God, we pray for the joy that is found in Jesus, that those who seek it  
may truly find it.

**May we celebrate in the joy found in You. Amen.**

### **HYMN: TIS 179**

Praise with joy the world's Creator,  
God of justice, love and peace,  
source and end of human knowledge,  
force of greatness without cease.

*Celebrate the Maker's glory,  
power to rescue and release.*

Praise the Son who feeds the hungry,  
frees the captive, finds the lost,  
heals the sick, upsets religion,  
fearless both of fate and cost.

*Celebrate Christ's constant presence -  
Friend and Stranger, Guest and Host.*

Praise the Spirit sent among us,  
liberating truth from pride,  
forging bonds where race or gender,  
age or nation dare divide.

*Celebrate the Spirit's treasure -  
foolishness none dare deride.*

Praise the Maker, Son and Spirit,  
one God in community,  
calling Christians to embody  
oneness and diversity.  
*Thus the world shall yet believe, when  
shown Christ's vibrant unity.*

John L. Bell 1949-  
and Graham Maule 1958-

## **PRAYERS OF GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE**

### **EARLY WORD**

Bless to me, O God  
the earth beneath my feet.  
Bless to me, O God  
the path on which I go.  
Bless to me, O God,  
the people whom I meet.  
O God of all gods  
bless to me my life.

### **SERVICE OF THE WORD**

Your Word, O Lord, is a lamp to our feet;  
**A light to our path**

Hebrew Scriptures:                      Isaiah 61. 1-4, 8-11

### **Psalm 126**

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,  
**we were like those who dream.**  
Then our mouth was filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy;  
**then it was said among the nations,**  
**'The Lord has done great things for them.'**  
The Lord has done great things for us,  
and we rejoiced.

**Restore our fortunes, O Lord,  
like the watercourses in the Negeb.**

May those who sow in tears

**reap with shouts of joy.**

Those who go out weeping,

bearing the seed for sowing,

**shall come home with shouts of joy,**

**carrying their sheaves.**

The word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

Gospel: John 1. 6-8, 19-28

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

**HYMN: TIS 272**

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free,  
from our fears and sins release us,  
let us find our rest in thee.

*Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.*

Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child and yet a king,  
born to reign in us for ever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

*By thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit  
raise us to thy glorious throne.*

Charles Wesley  
1707-88

## SERMON

### HYMN: TIS 282

The voice of God goes out to all the world;  
his glory speaks across the universe.  
The great King's herald cries from star to star:  
*'With power, with justice, he will walk his way.'*

The Lord has said, ;Receive my messenger,  
my promise to the world, my pledge made flesh,  
a lamp to every nation, light from light':  
*with power, with justice, he will walk his way.*

The broken reed he will not trample down,  
nor set his heel upon the dying flame.  
He binds the wounds, and health is in his hand:  
*with power, with justice, he will walk his way.*

Anointed with the Spirit and with power,  
he comes to crown with comfort all the weak,  
to show the face of justice to the poor:  
*with power, with justice, he will walk his way.*

His touch will bless the eyes that darkness held,  
the lame shall run, the halting tongue shall sing,  
and prisoners laugh in light and liberty:  
*with power, with justice, he will walk his way.*

Luke Connaughton  
1917-79

**OFFERINGS** – can be left in the offering plate on the communion table

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Source of life:

**Bring joy to birth in the whole creation.**

## **HYMN: TIS 265**

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 you, O Israel.*

O come, O come, great Lord of might  
who to the tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times did give the law  
in cloud and majesty and awe.

*Rejoice! rejoice! ....*

O come, O key of David, come,  
and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high  
and close the path to misery.

*Rejoice! rejoice! ....*

O come, O branch of Jesse, free  
your own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell your people save  
and give them victory o'er the grave.

*Rejoice! rejoice! ....*

O come, O dayspring, come and cheer  
our spirits by your advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night  
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

*Rejoice! rejoice!*

*Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.*

Anon., Latin, 18<sup>th</sup> cent. or earlier  
based on Antiphons from 9<sup>th</sup> cent. or earlier  
tr. John Mason Neale 1818-66 *alt.*

## **BLESSING AND SENDING OUT**

May the light of Christ shine on you:  
like Mary, may you find in yourself  
a place of expectant waiting for the Christ to grow;  
like Joseph, may you find in yourself  
a place of compassionate welcome;

like the shepherds, may you respond  
with unabashed joy to the Good News, and;  
like the wise men, may you seek  
until you find God made flesh in yourself.


May God the Father make you holy in his love.  
God the Son enrich you with his grace.  
God the Holy Spirit strengthen you with joy.:  
the Lord bless you and keep you in eternal life. Amen

### **WORD OF MISSION**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord  
**In the name of Christ. Amen**

### **POSTLUDE**

*You can find a copy of today's sermon along with other congregational  
information on the church website.*

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- Female harvester laughing while carrying two heavy sheaves of rice in Laos: Basile Morin , Wikipedia Commons

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