

Worship Service ~ *Longing for Joy*

Third Sunday of Advent, Year A,

14th December, 2025

Luke 1:39-56 / 1 Peter 1:3-12

Prelude

played by church musician Annie Center,

Gathering Together

Welcome

Good morning, it's my pleasure to welcome you to worship with Olympic View Community Church. Please stand with me, if you're able, and hear the Lord call us into worship.

Call to Worship

One: The Lord has done great things for us!

All: And we are filled with joy!

One: Our God has turned our weeping into singing,

All: our tears into songs of joy!

One: O Christ of God, come anew in our hearts this day,

All: and remain in us forever.

Invocation

Father in heaven, our hearts desire is the warmth of your love, and our minds are searching for the light of your Word.

Increase our longing for Christ, our Savior, and give us the strength to grow in love, that the dawn of his coming may find us rejoicing in his presence and welcoming the light of his truth. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Opening Hymn

Hark! The Glad Sound ~ 184

Lighting the Advent Candle

Please be seated. The Advent reading for this Sunday comes from Psalm 98:4, 7-9.

Advent Reading ~ Psalm 98:4, 7-9

4 Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

7 Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who dwell in it!

8 Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together

9 before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity

Advent Candle (Joy)

Reader: *[Light Candle]* Christ defied the darkness of a world full of sadness by coming into it to restore his people to joy.

All: We, like he did, walk through valleys of sadness. But we also, like him, defy the darkness by lighting this candle which represents the joy he gives us.

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Engaging with God Together

Scripture Reading ~ Luke 1:39-56

39 In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, **40** and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. **41** And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, **42** and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! **43** And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? **44** For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. **45** And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

46 And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,

47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

48 for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

49 for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

50 And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

51 He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

52 he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate;

53 he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

54 He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

55 as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

56 And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

Let's greet one another with the peace of Christ as we pass the peace.

Pass the Peace

Sharing Announcements and Prayer Requests

In a moment we are going to pray together, but before we do, does anyone have any announcements to share about anything in the life of the church coming up? Does anyone have any joys or concerns to share?

Hymn ***It Came Upon a Midnight Clear ~ 195*** (v1-2,4-5)

Hearing the Word Together

Sermon Passage ~ 1 Peter 1:3-12

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, **5** who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. **6** In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, **7** so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. **8** Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, **9** obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, **11** inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. **12** It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

Sermon ~ *Longing for Joy*

Rev. Jonny Finlayson

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Responding to the Word Together

Call to Serve

A Time for Reflection Played by church musician Annie Center,

Hymn ***Bless'd be the God of Israel ~ 174***

Benediction

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Short prayer by pastor

Postlude played by church musician Annie Center,

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