



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - GAUDETE

"What Child is This?"

December 14, 2025

10:00 am

*please rise as you are able, in body or spirit.

GATHERING MUSIC

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Christmas Joy Offering

INTROIT

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE – The Chaney Family

We light this candle of Joy for those who need it most.
For all whose despair feels endless.

For all who find little joy in daily living.
For all whose disappointment runs deep.

Our question for today is this: "How can we proclaim a deep joy "in spite of" hardship in our time?" What child IS this?

This, this, is the Son of Blessed Mary who reigns with joy forever.

CANDLELIGHTING CAROL

(Handchimes Choir rings 1 verse, then congregation sings)

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, one and all, to own him.**

**The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.**

Raise, raise the song on high.

The virgin sings her lullaby.

**Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!**

CONFESSION OF SIN *(Unison)*

Gracious God, we are thirsty for your grace. You made a way for us in the wilderness, and still, in our foolishness, we go astray. We hide our eyes from your presence. We do not listen to your word. We are lifeless when we ought to dance and speechless when we ought to sing. Forgive us, O Lord. Speak peace to our fearful hearts, strengthen our weak hands, and make firm our feeble knees as we seek to follow in your holy way. Amen.

*The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.*

[You are invited to exchange signs of peace with one another.]

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, Be born in us today!
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!**

A TIME WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH

THE WORD IN SONG

Adult Choir

The Promise Fulfilled

*By Lani Smith, Narration by the Rev. William Privette
Narrator: Frieda Bostian*

The Promise Fulfilled

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

The Babe in Bethlehem's Manger Laid

Sweet Holy Child

Angels We Have Heard on High

O Come, All Ye Faithful

The Promise Fulfilled (Reprise)

SAYING WHAT WE BELIEVE

We affirm that Jesus was born of woman as is every child, yet born of God's power as was no other child. In the person and work of Jesus, God himself and a human life are united but not confused, distinguished

by not separated. The coming of Jesus was itself the coming of God's promised rule.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/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* *"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"* **82**

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION*

CHORAL RESPONSE, #92, V. 1* *Congregation and Choir*

**While we are waiting, come;
While we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
While we are waiting, come.**

Everyone is invited to stay after the service for our Christmas Joy Dinner and Program. We hope you will! There is plenty of food!