

Waupun United Methodist Church, Waupun, WI
Worship Music and Bible Reading – 12/11/2022

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candles

Reader One: “The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus. It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing . . . A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray . . . And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.” (Isaiah 35:1-2, 8, 10).

Reader Two: The prophet Isaiah tells us about the joy of ascending to God's house. The prophet tells us to imagine being set free, being unburdened, being released to live, to fully live in the grace and wonder of life itself, surrounded by those who love us like no one else. And then he tells us that the journey to get there is just as much a joy.

Reader One: The Psalmist says “Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord . . . who made heaven and earth . . . who keeps faith . . . who executes justice . . . gives food . . . sets prisoners free . . . opens eyes . . . lifts up . . . watches over . . . upholds . . . The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!” (Psalm 146)

Reader Two: On this third Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of joyous hope, a second candle for peace, and a third candle, the pink candle of Joy, as a sign that we are those who walk with a skip in our step because we can see the destination, and it is pure joy. We are ascending to God's promise.

*Blessing/Dismissal

Isaiah 35:1-4

One day the wilderness will blossom with flowers;
and the desert wasteland will come alive with new growth.
And God's glory and splendor will be on full display.
With this news, strengthen those who have tired hands,
and encourage those who have weak knees.
Say to those with fearful hearts,
“Be strong, and do not fear, for your God is coming to save you.”
So go with confidence into the days ahead.
And may the love of God,
the grace of Jesus Christ,
and the presence of the Holy Spirit,
be among you and within you. Amen.

That Boy Child of Mary

**That boy-child of Mary was born in a stable, a manger his cradle in Bethlehem.
What shall we call him, child of the manger? What name is given in Bethlehem?**

**That boy-child of Mary was born in a stable, a manger his cradle in Bethlehem.
His name is Jesus, God ever with us, God given for us in Bethlehem.**

**That boy-child of Mary was born in a stable, a manger his cradle in Bethlehem.
How can he save us, how can he help us, born here among us in Bethlehem?**

**That boy-child of Mary was born in a stable, a manger his cradle in Bethlehem.
Gift of the Father, to human mother, makes him our brother of Bethlehem.**

**That boy-child of Mary was born in a stable, a manger his cradle in Bethlehem.
One with the Father, he is our Savior, heaven sent helper of Bethlehem.**

**That boy-child of Mary was born in a stable, a manger his cradle in Bethlehem.
Gladly we praise him, love and adore him, give ourselves to him of Bethlehem.
That boy-child of Mary was born in a stable, a manger his cradle in Bethlehem.**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: News, news! Jesus Christ is born today!
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today, Christ is born today!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: News, news! Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door, and ye are blest forever more.
Christ was born for this Christ was born for this!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not far the grave: News, news!
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save, Christ was born to save!**