

Stone Church of the Brethren

December 17, 2023, Third Sunday of Advent

How Does a Weary World Rejoice?

We Allow Ourselves to be Amazed

“‘The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced’ (Psalm 126:3). When we acknowledge our weary world while remembering what God has already done, and what God is doing, THEN we can rejoice.” - Rev. Cecelia D. Armstrong

WELCOME Pastor Ben

PRELUDE *Do You Hear What I Hear* Gloria Shayne
Loren & Donna Rhodes

CALL TO WORSHIP *from Psalm 126* Pastor Ben

One: When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
We were like those who dream.

**All: Our mouths were suddenly filled with laughter
and joyful shouts.**

One: It was even said, at that time, among the nations,
“The Lord has done great things for them!”

**All: Yes! The Lord *has* done great things for us,
and we are overjoyed!**

One: Restore us, even now, Lord, change us for the better,
like dry streams in the desert.

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

One: May those who go out crying and carrying their seed,
come home with joyful shouts, carrying bales of grain!

SONG *Light Dawns on a Weary World*[^] Bringle/Rowan
(see insert for music)

*CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY** Pam Grugan, Eddie Crader,
& Shelby Anders

Pam: How does a weary world practice joy?

Congregation: By dancing, and throwing birthday parties.

Eddie: By hanging Christmas lights,

Shelby: and holding sleepy babies.

**Congregation: By singing loudly,
and looking for good news.**

Pam: By telling the story of Jesus,
and showing up for our community.

Shelby: There are a million ways to practice joy.

Eddie: So today we light the candle of joy as a reminder
and a charge.

**Congregation: With God’s help, may we bring joy
into a weary world. Amen.**

*SONG *Joy to the World*^{^^} 318 vs 1,2,4

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN Mini-Pageant** Luke 1: 57-66
Elizabeth: Sally Rohrbaugh; *Zechariah:* Ezra Lattimer;
Neighbors: Everett Lattimer, Cyrus Lattimer, Marty Keeney,
Tavey Rohrbaugh, Matt Rohrbaugh, Pastor Cindy

SONG *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*^{^^} 195 vs 1,2

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY Pastor Ben

SONG *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*^{^^} 195 vs 3,4,5

MESSAGE Surprise! Pastor Cindy

ANTHEM *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*[^] Larry Shackley
Tara Yorke, clarinet
(see insert for text)

POEM** *All the Way to Joy* Darlene Chivers
by Sarah Are Speed

*SONG *To Us a Child of Hope is Born*^{^^} 189

SENDING Pastor Cindy

POSTLUDE *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* Mendelssohn/
Loren & Donna Rhodes arr. Lani Smith

LIGHT DAWNS ON A WEARY WORLD

Mary Louise Bringle

TEMPLE OF PEACE
William P. Rowan



1. Light dawns on a wea - ry world when

2. Joy fills up a wea - ry world when



eyes be - gin to see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty
hearts ex - pand in love and all are wel - comed in.



Light dawns on a wea - ry world: the

Joy fills up a wea - ry world: the



prom - ised day of jus - tice comes.

prom - ised world of wholeness comes. The trees shall



clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs; the hills and



mountains shall break forth with singing! We shall go



out in joy, and be led forth in peace, as all the



world in wonder ech - oes sha - lom

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Choral Anthem

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence[^]

Larry Shackley

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
And with fear and trembling stand.

Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand,
Christ, our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank, the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way.
As the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day,
That the pow'rs of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged, seraph, cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the Presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry:

Alleluiah, Alleluiah! Alleluiah! Lord most high!
Alleluiah! Lord most high!

**Please Rise, as Able, in Body or Spirit*

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