

PRELUDE *Three Settings of "Vom Himmel hoch da komm' ich her"* Bach, Zachau
 ("From Heaven Above to Earth I Come")

Joy to the World arr. Patricia A. Sanders
 The Whitechapel Handbell Choir, Jessica Berube-Sengupta, director

WELCOME

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING The Protos Family

One: During the season of Advent, we watch and wait for the Christ's arrival. We remember that God has promised redemption to all who pursue the path of faith.

All: This morning, we kindle the flame of joy to remind us to share joy wherever we are in the world.

[The congregation will pause to allow time for candle lighting.]

UNISON PRAYER

God, our redeemer, you lead us from lamentation toward laughter -- the joy of redemption and restoration. Thank you that you are coming to lead us toward our true home in and through Christ Jesus. Amen.

RESPONSE (HYMN 128, VERSE 3) *One Candle Is Lit* CRADLE SONG

Come, festively sing while awaiting the birth,
 join angels in dancing from heaven to earth.
 Wave banners of good news, lift high thankful praise.
 One candle is lit for the joy of these days.

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†CALL TO WORSHIP Ray Epps

One: Rejoice and be glad!

All: God is at work while we wait and prepare for God's peace to come upon the earth.

One: Rejoice, for God is here!

All: God is our strength and our light.

One: Let us give thanks to God.

All: We will sing praises for all the earth to hear!

†HYMN 125 [Come, O Long-expected Jesus](#) HYFRYDOL

†OPENING PRAYER

God of joy, thank you for your presence in our lives. During this time of worship, draw us closer to you and to one another. May we lay aside our worries, trusting that you know the desires of our hearts and that you alone can satisfy our souls. May we dwell in your peace and be guided by the one who is to come, Christ our Savior. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

INVITATION TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

ANTHEM *Angels We Have Heard On High* arr. Patricia A. Sanders
 The Whitechapel Handbell Choir, Jessica Berube-Sengupta, director

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE READING [Philippians 4:4-7](#) (NT p. 242)

†RESPONSE (HYMN 134) *Emmanuel, Emmanuel* MCGEE
Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel. God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel. Used with permission from CCLI, License 4720828

SERMON *An Ode to Joy: Always and All Ways* Rev. Fredd

HYMN 135 [Blessed Be the God of Israel](#) MERLE'S TUNE

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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.

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Joys Seven* Steven Cleobury
 The First Church Choir, Nicole Dickinson, soloist

†DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts: Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Abundant God, we offer these gifts to you in service to your universal church.
May you bless them and use them to feed those who are hungry, shelter those who are vulnerable, and bring wholeness to those who are wounded. And may we offer our whole selves as we proclaim the glad news of your imminent arrival.
Amen.

†HYMN 2

[*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*](#)

ODE TO JOY

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

My Soul Gives Glory to My God
The First Church Choir

MORNING SONG

POSTLUDE

Fugue in C Major
"The Jig Fugue"

Johann Buxtehude

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† Please stand in body or spirit as you are able.

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments following the service!