



THOSE
WHO *sow*
joy
DREAM
3RD Sunday in Advent

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.
Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations,
“The Lord has done great things for them.”
The Lord has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced.

— Psalm 126

GATHERING

Welcome

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

Lighting the Joy Candle

Prelude

Picardy

arr. Rick Deasley

Scripture Reading – based on Psalm 126

**When the Lord restored us from our exile,
we were like those who dream.**

Morning Prayer

*Hymn #347

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and trem - bling stand;
King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on earth he stood,
Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van - guard on the way,
At his feet the six - winged ser - aph, cher - u - bim, with sleep - less eye,
pon - der noth - ing earth - ly mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand
Lord of lords, in hu - man ves - ture, in the bod - y and the blood,
as the Light of light de - scend - eth from the realms of end - less day,
veil their fac - es to the pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry,
Christ our God to earth de - scend - eth, our full hom - age to de - mand.
he will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heaven - ly food.
that the powers of hell may van - ish as the shad - ows clear a - way.
"Al - le - u - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Lord most high!"

Call to Confession

Prayers of Confession

O Great God of such Joy,
With a sky full of stars and a world full of flowers,
there should be no end to our joy.

And yet,

**instead of decorating our very beings with joy,
we let it slip away like loose change.**

**Instead of singing like Mary, or dancing like David,
we pass by remarkable beauty and love most days, unfazed.**

Forgive us.

**Teach us the ways of children,
who laugh and dance and sing
as if joy is the very thing that keeps them alive.**

**In the name of Jesus our Joy,
hear our personal prayers ...**

[silent prayers]

*Response #366

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery trou - bled breast;
Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy life re - ceive;
Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less let us be;



fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing; all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus,
let us all in thee in - her - it; let us find the prom - ised rest. Take a -
sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we
let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in thee: changed from



thou art all com - pas - sion; pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
would be al - ways bless - ing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love and praise.

*Assurance of Forgiveness

*Signs of Peace

LISTENING

Announcements

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Interlude

O Holy Night
Edward Clark, saxophone

Adolphe Adam/arr. Simon

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:39-56

Sermon

THOSE WHO DREAM... Sow Joy

DEPARTING

*Hymn #121

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
For Christ is born of Mar - y and gath - ered all a - bove,
How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
5 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us we pray;
A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by.
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.
10 Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light;
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;
15 the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
O come to us; a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Affirmation of Faith

from the 1998 Presbyterian Study Catechism

Question 31. What do you affirm when you confess your faith in Jesus Christ as "our Lord"?

That having been raised from the dead he reigns with compassion and justice over all things in heaven and on earth, especially over those who confess him by faith; and that by loving and serving him above all else, I give glory and honor to God.

Question 32. What do you affirm when you say he was "conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary"?

First, that being born of a woman, Jesus was truly a human being. Second, that our Lord's incarnation was a holy and mysterious event, brought about solely by free divine grace surpassing any human possibilities. Third, that from the very beginning of his life on earth, he was set apart by his unique origin for the sake of accomplishing our salvation.

*Charge and Benediction

*Response

Northumbria Blessing

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you, wherever he may send you. May he guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm. May he bring you home rejoicing at the wonders he has shown you. May he bring you home rejoicing, once again into our doors.

Postlude

