

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**DECEMBER 15, 2024** **11:00 AM**

**PRELUDE, GATHERING,** *Near to the Heart of God* **472**  
**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS -**

December 24 – 7pm Christmas Eve Worship (9pm at Urbana)  
December 31 – First Sunday of Christmas, with Pat Huff  
January 5 – Observing Epiphany, with Rev. Linda Yarrow

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**HYMN:** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* verses 1,6,7 **211**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION** Traditional

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed,  
we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH** *from Discipleship Ministries*

**Scripture Reading : Isaiah 12:2-6**

*No matter what troubles overwhelm us today,  
Isaiah reminds us that in all of our preparation  
& passionate pursuit of God's coming kin-dom,  
we must not forget that God's salvation has come and is coming.  
"With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation" (Isaiah 12:3).*

*With joy you will remember that  
God's salvation is already present among us.*

***Faced with the troubles and the suffering of the world,  
we choose to live in joyful presence to God and one another.  
We will not turn away from the pain & the hurt in our world,  
and we will not stop rejoicing in God, whose salvation fills  
us to overflowing that God's love might flow through us  
and flood our troubled world with hope, peace, and joy.***

*On this third Sunday of Advent,  
we again light the candles of Hope and Peace  
and we add to it, the Candle of Joy*

**>>>Light 3 candles.<<<**

*May this Candle of Joy be a sign of our commitment  
to be present to ourselves, our friends,  
our families, and our neighbors  
that in sharing our vulnerable lives  
we might share in the glorious joy of God's salvation together.*  
**Eternal Creator, with you each moment of life  
is full of wonder and surprise.  
We pray you to make us watchful  
as we await the coming of Christ.  
Grant that we may not be found sleeping in sin,  
but awake and rejoicing in your newness of life.  
Through the same Jesus Christ our Savior, Amen.**

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**HYMN:** *The Candle of Hope*, stanza 3 (uses #73)  
by Carolyn Gillette, used with permission (as published on her website.)

***The candle of joy reminds us to sing,  
For God is at work to do a new thing.  
The proud will be humbled; the lowly will rise.  
God's kingdom is one of delight and surprise.***

**SCRIPTURE READING** Philippians 4:4-7

**CHOIR** *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

**SERMON**

**SPECIAL** *The Holly and the Ivy*  
Asha Azariah-Kribbs, Soloist

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE -**

**INTERCESSIONS**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**BRINGING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

*With joy and gratitude for all we have been given,  
in token of our lives, we offer our tithes and gifts to God.*

**DOXOLOGY**

## PRAYER

GBoD/DM

God of Advent joy, we bring our offerings  
with hearts open to your transformative call.  
In this season of anticipation,  
may our gifts help mend what is broken  
and share the promise of redemption.  
Empower us to live fully present,  
giving generously and acting justly.  
Let these offerings be seeds of hope and joy  
that will draw us closer to your kin-dom.  
Bless our giving, that it may reflect your love  
and bring light to our world.  
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

**HYMN**      *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* verses 2&3      **224**

## PRAYER & SENDING

*Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries*

*Advent invites each of us into a new way of living  
in a world to which the kin-dom of God has come  
and is yet coming.*

*Go, now, blessed with the gift of togetherness,  
for it is only in being truly present with God and one another  
that we live as followers of the coming Messiah.*

Amen

## POSTLUDE

**Bulletin Credits:** *Some of the Liturgy is by the pastor (dwh)  
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## Clarksburg United Methodist Church

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## Reflecting on and Praying with Scriptures

As suggested by the Revised Common Lectionary  
Year C – Advent 3; December 15, 2024

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### Scriptures

Isaiah 12:2-6

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:7-18

### Questions for Reflection:

Imagine that you are in the crowd listening to John the Baptizer. You hear people in the crowd asking him, “What should we do to prepare?” How might John instruct you, or your church, to prepare for the coming of God’s reign?

Sometimes wealthy people worry that God or the church is requiring them to be poor. What is the difference between being poor and being fair?

How do you feel about sharing?

### Morning Prayers:

God, surely you are my salvation.

I begin this day without fear, trusting you,  
for you are my strength.

Help me to meditate all day  
on the thought that you are rejoicing in me!

And keep me keenly aware, as I travel through this day,  
of ways that I may help others,  
especially those with special needs.

Then bring me home to you at the close of the day.  
Amen.

### Evening Prayers:

Thank you, God, for the gift of today  
and for guarding my heart and my mind in Christ Jesus.  
All that I did and all that I left undone,  
I now give over to your safekeeping,  
trusting in your peace that surpasses all  
understanding.

Be my rest as I sleep tonight,  
and renew me in your love for another day. Amen.

