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**THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT  
JOINT WORSHIP  
December 17, 2023 • 10:00 am  
ORDER OF WORSHIP**

*(Please be sure to silence your cell phones. Thank you!)*

**PRELUDE** 前奏 – Shane Cantanho, piano

**WELCOME** 歓迎: — Mark Teagle, Director of  
Spiritual Formation, Community Engagement, and Music

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** 招きの言葉 (L.-Liturgist; **P.-People**)  
– Mikiko Kaniike Ball

L: God calls to the lost, the least, and all who long for  
home;

**P: God calls us when we wander from the path  
chosen for us,**

L: God calls us when we waste the gifts we have  
been given.

**P: God calls us and welcomes us back to this community of believers.**

L: Let us celebrate and rejoice in God's presence forever.

**All: Let us worship God together at Wesley Church on this day.**

**\*OPENING PRAYER** 祈祷 – Mikiko Kaniike Ball

As we gather here, from different walks of life, we acknowledge the beauty of the journey that has brought us together. God, in your infinite wisdom, you led us to this community. We join in this Advent worship service this morning with open hearts, grateful for the journey that led us here and excited for the adventures that await us as a united community. In your holy name, we pray. AMEN.

**\*SONG: “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!”**

– Wesley Praise Band

*Traditional. Public Domain*

Good Christian friends, rejoice!  
With heart and soul and voice!  
Listen now 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, yes!

Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice!  
With heart and soul and voice!  
Now you hear of endless bliss:  
News! News! Jesus Christ is born for this!  
He has opened heaven's door,  
and you are blest forevermore.  
Christ is born for this, yes!  
Christ is born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice!  
With heart and soul and voice!  
Now you need not fear the grave:  
News! News! Jesus Christ is born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all  
to gain his everlasting hall.  
Christ is born to save, yes!  
Christ is born to save!  
Christ is born to save, yes!  
Christ is born to save!

**ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING:**

— Daniella Polar & Jonatan Schumacher  
with their children

A reading from Isaiah 35:1-2, 8, 10, "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."

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.

We light these candles, the candle of joyous hope, of proclaimed peace, and of deep and everlasting 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.

### **GOD'S GARDEN CHRISTMAS PAGEANT:**

Directed by Hatty Lin and our God's Garden Teachers

### **CHORAL ANTHEM** 聖歌隊讚美:

"Rejoice and Sing Noel!" — Wesley Chancel Choir

*Words and Music by Allan Robert Petker*

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## **SCRIPTURE**聖書: — Mikiko Kaniike Ball

Luke 19: 1-10

<sup>1</sup>Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through it. <sup>2</sup>A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. <sup>3</sup>He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. <sup>4</sup>So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. <sup>5</sup>When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.” <sup>6</sup>So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. <sup>7</sup>All who saw it began to grumble and said, “He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.” <sup>8</sup>Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, “Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.” <sup>9</sup>Then Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup>For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.”

## **JAPANESE SCRIPTURE**聖書:

— Mikiko Kaniike Ball: ボール蟹池美樹子  
ルカによる福音書—19章1節-10節

<sup>1</sup>イエスはエリコに入り、町を通っておられた。<sup>2</sup>そこにザアカイという人がいた。この人は徴税人の頭で、金持ちであった。<sup>3</sup>イエスがどんな人か見ようとしたが、背が低かったので、群衆に遮られて見ることはできなかった。<sup>4</sup>それで、イエスを見るために、走って先回りし、いちじく桑の木に登った。そこを通り過ぎようとしておられたからである。<sup>5</sup>イエスはその場所に来ると、上を見上げて言われた。「ザアカイ、急いで降りて来なさい。今日は、ぜひあなたの家に泊まりたい。」<sup>6</sup>ザアカイは急いで降りて来て、喜んでイエスを迎えた。<sup>7</sup>これを見た人たちは皆つぶやいた。「あの人は罪深い男のところに行って宿をとった。」<sup>8</sup>しかし、ザアカイは立ち上がって、主に言った。「主よ、わたしは財産の半分を貧しい人々に施します。また、だれかから何かだまし取っていたら、それを四倍にして返します。」<sup>9</sup>イエスは言われた。「今日、救いがこの家を訪れた。この人もアブラハムの子なのだから。<sup>10</sup>人の子は、失われたものを捜して救うために来たのである。」

**MESSAGE 説教: “Together: The Beauty of Community-Week 3”** — Rev. John Oda, Senior Pastor

**SONG: “What Child Is This?”** — Wesley Praise Band

*Words by William C. Dix, Music 16th century English melody  
Public Domain*

What child is this who, laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,

while shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading.

This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
come, peasant, king, to own him;  
the King of kings salvation brings,  
let loving hearts enthrone him.

This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary.

**COLLECTION OF OUR OFFERING** 献金 :

— Mikiko Kaniike Ball

Today's Altar Flowers are given in memory of  
Dr. James Higuchi by Jim & Pat Higuchi

**OFFERTORY MUSIC:** "In the Bleak Midwinter"  
Music by Gustav Holst — Dave Brown, baritone  
and Shane Cantanho, piano

**\*DOXOLOGY** 頌栄 — Shane Cantanho

*"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" words by Thomas Ken | music by  
Luis Bourgeois | words and music Public Domain*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God above ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

*In Japanese:*

A me tsu chi ko zo ri te  
Ka shi ko mi ta ta e yo  
Mi me gu mi a fu ru ru  
Chi chi mi ko mi ta ma o. Amen

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER** 祈祷 — Mikiko Kaniike Ball

Rejoicing God, we offer you thanks and praise for this  
season of anticipation, this season of Advent. As we  
prepare for the birth of your son, we share our tithes and  
offerings with the joy and excitement that is common as



one anticipates the birth of a new child. Bless these gifts in your Holy Name. Amen.

**PASTORAL PRAYER** 牧会祈祷: — Rev. John Oda

**\*HYMN: 奉献曲: “Sing We Now of Christmas”**

UMH #237, v. 1-3 – Wesley Praise Band

*Traditional French Carol, Public Domain*

Sing we now of Christmas,  
Noel, sing we here!  
Hear our grateful praises  
to the babe so dear.

Sing we Noel,  
the King is born, Noel!  
Sing we now of Christmas,  
sing we now Noel.

Angels called to shepherds,  
“Leave your flocks at rest,  
journey forth to Bethlehem,  
find the child so blest.”

Sing we Noel,  
the King is born, Noel!  
Sing we now of Christmas,  
sing we now Noel.

In Bethlehem they found him;  
Joseph and Mary mild,  
seated by the manger;  
watching the holy child.

Sing we Noel,  
the King is born, Noel!  
Sing we now of Christmas,  
sing we now Noel.

\***BENEDICTION** 祝禱: – Rev. John Oda

\***RESPONSE** 応答 – “**Go Now In Peace**” – Shane Cantanho  
*Words and Music: Don Besig OneLicense 735877-A.*

Go now in peace, never be afraid.  
God will go with you each hour of every day.  
Go now in faith, steadfast strong and true.  
Know God will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love, and show you believe.  
Reach out to others so all the world can see.  
God will be there, watching from above  
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.  
Amen. Amen. Amen.

**POSTLUDE MUSIC** 後奏: — Shane Cantanho

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\*Please stand if you are able.