

What Child IS This?

Third Sunday of Advent
December 14, 2025
11:15am

"Son of Mary"

GATHERING

Like the iconic figures gathered around the Christ Child in our nativity scenes, we gather together because we want to know Jesus more as we seek to bring his Reign of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love on earth.

We Gather at the Scene

**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?**

candle lighting

**This, this is Christ the King
whom shepherds guard and angels sing!
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
the Babe, the Son of Mary!**

***Bring Him Laud My Soul Magnifies the Lord**

Good news of great joy for ev'ry woman ev'ry man
This will be a sign to you: a baby born in Bethlehem
Come and worship do not be afraid

A company of angels, "Glory in the highest
And on the earth a peace among those on whom His favor rests."
Come and worship do not be afraid

**CHORUS: My soul my soul magnifies the Lord
My soul magnifies the Lord
He has done great things for me
Great things for me**

Unto you a child is born, unto us a Son is giv'n
Let ev'ry heart prepare His throne
Let ev'ry nation under Heav'n
Come and worship do not be afraid (Chorus)

Sharing Signs of Hope

PROCLAIMING

*We open ourselves to the full story of Christ's birth, knowing that his story is the
ground of our faith and the light for our path*

Haste Haste!

*The children gather for Small Talk & Noisy Offering. Noisy Offerings will purchase
chickens and rabbits for families through Heifer International.*

**Be near us, Lord Jesus; we ask Thee to stay
close by us forever, and love us, we pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
and make earth a heaven, where all have a share.**

***We Hear the Story**

Luke 1:46-56

Mary said:

*“My soul proclaims your greatness, O God,
and my spirit rejoices in you, my Savior.*

*For you have looked with favor upon your lowly servant,
and from this day forward all generations will call me
blessed.*

*For you, the Almighty, have done great things for me,
and holy is your Name.*

Your mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear you.

You have shown strength with your arm;

*you have scattered the proud in their conceit;
you have deposed the mighty from their thrones
and raised the lowly to high places.*

*You have filled the hungry with good things,
while you have sent the rich away empty.*

*You have come to the aid of Israel your servant,
mindful of your mercy—*

the promise you made to our ancestors—

to Sarah and Abraham and their descendants forever.”

Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then
returned home.

The Word of God for the people of God: **Thanks be to God**

Sermon

Son of Mary

Rev. Jon Snape

RESPONDING

Our faithful response is to praise God for this story of Emmanuel, God with us, even and especially in the midst of difficulty. For God is indeed with us even still.

We Keep Watch

a time of prayer as we prepare to meet Christ at the Lord's table.

Sacrament of Baptism

George Jerome Mendiola

Offering & Offertory

Child of the Poor/
What Child is This

***Advent Doxology**

**Praise God for gifts of hope and peace
Praise God for gifts of joy and love
Praise God for sending Christ to dwell
On earth for us – Emmanuel. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

see screen

Receiving Bread and Cup

Prayer After Receiving

***The Lord's Prayer**

SENDING FORTH

Just as our theme carol asks, “what child is this?” we too have come with our questions this day. We go into the world with answers of Good News, being the body of Christ through our words and deeds.

***Closing Chorus**

Joyful, Joyful

Joyful joyful we adore thee, God of glory Lord of love
Hearts unfold like flowers before you opening to the sun above
(2x)

We will sing, sing, sing, “Joy to the world!”

We will sing, sing, sing, “Joy to the world!”

***We Ask, We Answer**

As we prepare to go into the world,
let us ask and answer the question we came with.

What child IS this?

This is the one born into a time when unbridled joy was
squelched by those in power.

What child IS this?

This is the one whose birth would stir the world from slumber,
and challenges us to know joy that comes from right relationship.

What child IS this?

This, this is the “Son of Mary” who shows us the song of life that
is ours when we stand up for the least.

***Benediction**

This, this is Christ the King
whom shepherds guard and angels sing!
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
the Babe, the Son of Mary!