December 17th, 2023 10:30 a.m. DIGITAL BULLETIN

Rev. David S. Vallelunga, Pastor; Bob Ediger, Liturgist;

David Cowan, Guest Musician; Christina Wong, Zoomlogist

**The Third Sunday of Advent**

**GAUDETE!**

PRELUDE “Ding Dong Merrily on High”

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS Pastor Dave

GREETING ONE ANOTHER IN CHRISTIAN LOVE

ADVENT CALL TO WORSHIP (sung to SLANE)

**We light three candles and work for the time**

**when joy and thanksgiving make all Life sublime;**

**honoring God with continual prayer,**

**sharing our goodness with all, everywhere!**

**Advent is time for reflection on life, for**

**righting of wrongs and for healing of strife,**

**brothers and sisters, united by love,**

**seeking the wholeness that comes from above.**

HYMN #234 “O Come, All Ye Faithful”, vs. 1,3, and 6

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:**

**O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US Pastor Dave

OUR LORD’S PRAYER

SONG # 218 “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

**It came upon the midnight clear,**

**that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth**

**to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,**

**from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay,**

**to hear the angels sing.**

*Dear God, we are often numb and asleep; days pass and we forget to notice moments of wonder and discovery. Renew and refresh all our senses. May we once again appreciate colors at sunrise, clouds billowing across an azure sky, tender green leaves budding on a once dormant tree, music beside a crackling hearth, the aroma of freshly ground coffee, laughter shared with cherished friends, the purring from a contented cat, swaying to slow music, and walking in the crisp autumn leaves. Remind us to open our eyes, ears, noses, hearts, and minds to the splendor all around us, and remind us that enjoyment and pleasure can be found at any moment: all we need do is look. Amen!*

**Still through the cloven skies they come**

**with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats**

 **o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains,**

**they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds**

**the blessed angels sing.**

*God of grace and goodness, we call on you. We ask you to touch us with your healing power. Cast out all sickness and recreate us. Let the warmth of your healing love pass through us. Loving Lord, grant that we will be free from pain, from anxiety, and from discomfort. Please allow your love and the compassion of caregivers, family, and friends to bring peace and comfort to us, so that we may more heartily extend peace and comfort to others. This we ask through Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

**And ye, beneath life's crushing load,**

**whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way**

**with painful steps and slow,
look now! for glad and golden hours**

**come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road,**

**and hear the angels sing!**

*By some incredible miracle, O Lord, the vast ocean of time has borne us up to its crest for this miniscule moment. We look around, revel in all that we see, and feel the spray in our faces. We are elated by Your majesty, the enormity of Creation, and find ourselves grateful beyond belief for this precious gift of being alive. Amen!*

**For lo! the days are hastening on,**

 **by prophet seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years**

**shall come the time foretold
when peace shall over all the earth**

**its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world send back the song**

**which now the angels sing!**

SCRIPTURE 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 Liturgist

MUSICAL INSPIRATION

HOMILY “Joyous Living 101: Gaudete”

OFFERTORY, ADVENT DOXOLOGY, and PRAYER

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,**

**praise God, all creatures here on earth below;**

**praise God above, ye heavenly host,**

**Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost!**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

CLOSING HYMN # 246 “Joy to the World”

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!**

**Let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare Him room,
and heav'n and nature sing,**

**and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!**

**Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow,**

**nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow**

**far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,**

**far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,**

**and makes the nations prove**

**the glories of His righteousness
and wonders of His love, and wonders of His love,
and wonders, wonders of His love.**

BLESSING *And so, we will rejoice always, we will pray without ceasing, we will give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for us! No more quenching of the Spirit; we will discern the wheat from the chaff of Life. And may our spirits, and souls, and bodies, and minds, be made sound and blameless till Jesus returns! Amen!*

POSTLUDE “The Wooden Shoe Polka”