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**AACRC Worship Order • 10:30am**  
**December 17, 2023 • Third Week in Advent**

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**Choral Prelude: Carol of Joy**

Dan Forrest

Green leaves all fallen, withered and dry; brief sunset fading, dim winter sky;  
Lengthening shadows, dark closing in; then through the stillness, carols begin.  
O fallen world to you is the song! Death holds you fast, and night tarries long.  
Jesus is born, your curse to destroy; sweet to yours ears, a carol of joy!

Pale moon ascending, solemn and slow; cold barren hillside shrouded in snow.  
Deep empty valley veiled by the night; hear angel music, hopeful and bright.  
O fearful world, to you is the song! Peace with your God, and pardon for wrong.  
Tidings for sinners, burdened and bound, a carol of joy, a Savior is found!

Earth wrapped in sorrow, lift up your eyes! Thrill to the chorus filling the skies.  
Look up, sad hearted! Witness God's love; join in the carol swelling above!  
O friendless world, to you is the song! All heaven's joy to you may belong!  
You who are lonely, laden, forlorn; O fallen world, O fearful world,  
O friendless world, carol of joy, now unto you a Savior is born!

**Call to Worship & God's Greeting**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

**Song: Joy to the World**

Red Hymnal 92

**First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11**

**Song: Dawning Light of Our Salvation**

Bruce Benedict and Wendell Kimbrough

**Prayer of Confession**

God of salvation,  
in Christ you have done great things  
—our hearts are filled with joy!

By your power you lifted us out of the wasteland of sin  
and brought us with joy and laughter into your kingdom.

Salvation is your gift to us.

But we confess that often we try to replace your gift with our own efforts.

We try to complete what is already perfect;

we try to add to what is already full;

we try to earn what we already have.

Forgive us for our foolishness.

Help us to focus on your grace.

Help us to live grateful lives in return.

For Jesus' sake alone, Amen.

**Words of Assurance**

**Children's Blessing**

*Come, Lord Jesus*

Green Songbook 103

*He Came Down (congregation please join 2nd time through)*

Green Songbook 92

**(3-5-year-old children are invited to Children's Worship in room 29)**

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**Second Reading:** I Thessalonians 5:16-24

**Gospel:** John 1:6-8, 19-28

**Interlude**

*When the King Shall Come Again*

Red Hymnal 475, vs. 1

**Sermon: Advent 3: Joy**

Pastor Noah Livingston

**The Lord's Supper**

One: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts!

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

...in the sanctified company of angels and archangels of heaven, joining the unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

... Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died!**

**Christ is risen!**

**Christ will come again!**

**Communion Songs:**

*Blessed Be the God of Israel*

Red Hymnal 67

*Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn*

Green Songbook 91

**As you come forward, there is an offering plate available to  
present your gifts and offerings for the Lord's work through AACRC.**

**Prayers of the People**

Psalm 126

**Sending Song:** *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout*

Red Hymnal 69

**We Receive God's Blessing**

**Postlude:** *Hark, the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes*

Robert Powell

Pastor Noah (Worship Leader), Pastor Mike & Pastor Kristen (Liturgists)

Lisa Hooceboom, The Adams Family (Readers), Paul Herrema (Choir Director)

Victor Chen (Bass), Annie Hayes (Drums), Marilyn McLaughlin (Keys), Veena Kulkarni-Rankin (Piano)

Jan Musch (Organ/Choir Accompanist), AACRC Choir, Dawn Zinsser, Kim Hubers (Vocals)