

**First United Methodist Church of Toms River  
Sanctuary Worship ~ December 12, 2021**

*Third Sunday in Advent  
The Candle of Joy*

PRELUDE

*Mary, Did You Know*

Joel Raney

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 12:1-3

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord

**Ministers: Thanks be to God!**

\*HYMN No. 234

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Birch*)

**Loving God, please forgive our moments of ingratitude and the spiritual blindness that prevents us from appreciating the wonder that is this world: the endless cycle of nature; of life and death and rebirth; and forgive us for taking without giving and harvesting without planting. Open our eyes to see, our lips to praise, and our hands to share. May our feet tread lightly on the path we walk and our footsteps be worthy of following you. We ask all this, anticipating the coming of the Savior...**

SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

THE LORD'S PRAYER No. 895

\*RESPONSIVE READING

Pastor: God sends light to us this day  
and invites us to meet one another in this light.

**Ministers: Light breaks forth like the dawn,  
drawing us into relationship with one another.**

Pastor: Let us humble ourselves for the worship of God,  
that we may be empowered to serve.

**Ministers: God calls us to trust with steady hearts  
and to serve with righteous compassion.**

Pastor: Seek not for lofty words of wisdom,  
but for powerful demonstrations of God's way.

**Ministers: The Lord is on his way...let us get ready!**

\*PRAISE RESPONSE

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen, Amen**

\*THE APOSTLES CREED No. 881

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried;  
the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right  
hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the**

**dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

\*CONGREGATIONAL GREETING

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE No. 204

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel,  
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel (2x)**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*Cradle Song*

Malcom Archer

PRESENTATION OF OUR TRUST, TITHES AND OFFERINGS

\*DOXOLOGY No. 95

\*HYMN No. 219

*What Child is This*

MESSAGE

## The Whole Reason

Isaiah 9:6

\*HYMN No. 202

*People Look East*

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

*The King Shall Come*

Michael Burkhardt

\*Indicates that those who are able, please stand

