



**3rd Sunday of Advent
December 12, 2021**

Contemporary Service - 9:30 am

Scripture for Meditation

Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long. (Psalm 25:5)

Prelude **Mary Did You Know?/Corelli Christmas Concerto** (arr. Al Van Der Beek & Steven Sharp Nelson)

Welcome

Announcements

(Offerings are received weekly via mail and online giving at
<https://villagechurchnorthbrook.org/give/>. Those attending live worship can
leave their donations in the offering plates in the Narthex.)

Call to Worship for Advent

based on Philippians 4:4-5

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord always.

People: I will say it again: Rejoice!

Leader: Let your gentleness be evident to all.

People: The Lord is near.

Leader: We rejoice in the hope of Christ's coming.

People: Let us worship God!

Lighting the Advent Candle of Joy

Carol

Angels from the Realms of Glory (verses 1-4)

#81

Christmas Pageant

The Promise of Christmas Created by Terryl Padilla and John Robert

Scene: In the beginning God made a promise and He's kept it.
God wants to be close to us and He has done great things.

Song 1: *Great Things with Do You Hear What I Hear?*
(J. Myrin & P. Wickham and N. Regney & G. Shayne)

Scene: God sent the perfect and true King in Jesus.

Song 2: *Gloria Medley: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing/ Gloria/
Angels We Have Heard on High/ The First Noel*
(Arr: J. Anderson)

Scene: The angels rejoice because the promised King had arrived!

Song 3: *Luke 2:14*

Scene: The Shepherds told of the good news and glorified and praised God. While Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.

Song 4: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

Scene: God promises to be with us, redeem us, rescue us, give us the King of Kings, the Good Shepherd, the Messiah, the Light, a Savior. And God's promises have always been true.

Song 5: *When I Think Upon Christmas*
(A. King, R Sieff, B. Tan)

Scene: Jesus is the Savior promised to you! And God will do great things through you if you believe in God's promises.

Song 6: *Joy to The World with Unspeakable Joy!*
(C. Tomlin, E. Cash, M. Gilder)

Scripture Reading **Zephaniah 3:14-20**

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon **The Promise of Victory**

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Carol **Go Tell It on the Mountain** **#93**

Blessing

Postlude **Go Tell It on the Mountain**
(Traditional Spiritual/Robert Lau)

Traditional Service - 11:00 am

Scripture for Meditation

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for you I wait all day long. (Psalm 25:5)

Prelude **Mary Did You Know?/Corelli Christmas Concerto** (arr. Al Van Der Beek & Steven Sharp Nelson)

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord always.

People: I will say it again: Rejoice!

Leader: Let your gentleness be evident to all.

People: The Lord is near.

Leader: We rejoice in the hope of Christ's coming.

People: Let us worship God!

Carol **Once in Royal David's City** #87 (verses 1-4)

Lighting the Advent Candle of Joy

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

O God, our Father, forgive us for our lack of preparation for your arrival during this Advent season. We are more concerned with the machinery of Christmas than the mystery of Christ's arrival. We wonder about how you arrived rather than why you came to live among us. Forgive us for not believing that you can save us from our self-centered life. Help us to extend the victorious life we find in your Son. Enable us to live from the joy of your redeeming love and the grace it provides. In Jesus Name. Amen.

(People silently offer their personal confessions to God.)

Declaration of Forgiveness

Pastor: Friends, believe the Good News:

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Response **O Little Town of Bethlehem** #88 (verse 4)

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today
We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

Anthem

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

(From *The Promise of Christmas* by by Terry! Padilla and John Robert)

Scripture Reading

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

The Promise of Victory

Musical Reflection

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

(Paul Manz)

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

Carol

Joy to the World

#92

Benediction

Postlude

Go Tell It on the Mountain

(Traditional Spiritual/Robert Lau)

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Sermon	Rev. Dr. Spencer Lundgaard
Liturgists	Rev. Greg Buell / Luke Stoner
Advent Candle Lighters	Jennifer and Chris Ardrey (9:30) George and Phyllis Zubulake (11:00)
Scripture Readers	Dave Owen (9:30), Brian Meek (11:00)
Prayers of the People	Roger Smith (9:30)
Prelude	Christine and Hannah Cheung
Director of Music	Ruth G. Heald
Organist/Pianist (11:00)	Sharon Peterson
Anthem (11:00)	Village Church Children’s Choir

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CHILDREN'S PAGEANT CAST

(in Order of Appearance)

Narrator 1: Alexander Roever
Narrator 2: Ayumi Majoros
Adam: Logan Gosser
Eve: Rachel Morgan
King Saul: Logan Gosser
David: Rachel Morgan
Angel 1: Charlotte Duthie
Angel 2: Addison Watters
Angel 3: Charley Giometti
Angel 4: Claire Roever
Shepherd 1: Grace Watters
Shepherd 2: Rachel Morgan
Shepherd 3: Charlie Elrod
Mary: Emi Majoros
Joseph: Logan Gosser

PAGEANT PARTICIPANTS:

Director and Children & Family Minister: Nancy Frese
Piano Accompanist: Sharon Peterson
Assistant Director: Anne Scott
Electric Keyboard: Christine Cheung
Percussion: Ruth G. Heald
Costumes, Set, and Props Coordinators: Anne Scott
and Janelle Duthie
Dance Instructor: Erin Gosser

Thank you to the many people who helped with the pageant this year.

**Scan the QR code to
connect to Realm.**



Reflection Questions

Background:

Zephaniah was an Old Testament prophet who preached a message of judgment against all the people because they lived a life of disobedience to God. Zephaniah preached that the Day of the Lord would come and that the people's sins would be judged. Ultimately, however, there will be a joyous victory in the end when the relationship is restored. In this time of Advent, we turn to Zephaniah because he points to the need for King Jesus to arrive and confront the sin in the world and our lives. In Zephaniah 3:14-20, the prophet focuses on the hopeful and victorious message that there will be a renewed and restored relationship in God's love one day.

Opening Questions:

- Think of a time when you got in trouble with one of your parents as a child. What happened? How did it go for you?
- Tell or write about a time in your life when you needed to extend forgiveness to restore a relationship.

Reading and Listening to the Scriptures:

- How did people respond to God when he took away the judgments against the people? (vs. 14-15)
- Some scholars suggest that this initial section is a call to worship God. Why do you think that might be the case?
- In vs. 14-15, God promises four things will occur. What are they?
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
- When these four promises are fulfilled, what is the result, and who will benefit? Vs. 16-18?
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.
 - 6.
 - 7.
- What are the seven "I will" promises of God to the remaining people after the Exile? (vs. 18-20)
- Why do you think this passage is helpful when we think about Advent--a time of preparation for the day when we celebrate Christ's birth?

Prayer:

Consider using the hymn "Joy to the World" by Isaac Watts as a prayer to express your response to God's reconciling love in Jesus Christ for you.