

Contemporary Service

9:30 am

Welcome and Call to Worship

Praise and Prayer

House of the Lord

Alive & Breathing

Prayer of Confession

Firm Foundation (He Won't)

Passing the Peace

Announcements

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

Scripture Reading Hebrews 12:1-2 & Philippians 4:4

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord;
All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Joy

The Fruitful Life: Cultivating the Character of Christ

Song of Response

Fresh Wind

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Blessing

Questions for Discussion

Opening Discussion

- Philippians 4:4 says, "Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice!" What encourages you about this verse? What do you find challenging?

Read: Psalm 98

Digging Deeper

- Looking at verse 1, what is the source of our praise?
- Who are the recipients of the Lord's salvation described in verses 2 and 3? What qualities of God are lifted up here?
- What are all the different ways that the people of God are called to praise God with joy in verses 4–6? Is this an exhaustive list or are there more ways that praise could be made?
- What in creation is called to praise God in verses 7-8? What is the point of calling all the earth and sea to praise God, when they literally don't have voices?
- What is the reason in the final verses of this psalm for praising God? Why is this aspect of God so praiseworthy?

Application for Life

- When do you praise God throughout the week? How do you do it? Are there other ways that you could worship God in joy—either with others or alone?
- In your journal, make a list of the many things God has done for you, and let it spark joy in your life!



Sign up for email list



Sign up for our online community



Program Staff

Spencer Lundgaard, Senior Pastor
Greg Buell, Associate Pastor for Discipleship & Caring Ministries
Ed Burton, Minister of Family Ministries
Luke Stoner, Minister of Contemporary Worship/Sr. High Youth
Jesse Borower, Director of Music (Traditional)

The Village Church

1300 Shermer Road, Northbrook, Illinois 60062-4577
villagechurchnorthbrook.org
847-272-0900



2nd Sunday after Easter
April 23, 2023

Traditional Service

11:00 am

Prelude **Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!**
(Composer: Jane Holstein)

Welcome

Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made.

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Opening Hymn **I Come With Joy** #533
(Verses 1-4)

Responsive Reading **Psalm 98**

Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.
His right hand and his holy arm
have gotten him victory.

**The Lord has made known his victory;
he has revealed his vindication
in the sight of the nations.
He has remembered his steadfast love
and faithfulness to the house of Israel.**

All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

**Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.**

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
the world and those who live in it.

**Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing together for joy
at the presence of the Lord,
for he is coming to judge the earth.**

He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Gracious Lord, we are called to be joyful people because you conquered death and rose from the grave. Yet we are consumed by how our emotions get the best of us. They take us on a ride with twists and turns and unsatisfying results. We are consumed by loss, distracted by stuff, and crippled with fear. We focus on our lack, rather than Your love. Lift our eyes, Lord Jesus, and renew our joy in You. Remind us that: in Your sacrifice is our forgiveness, in Your death is our resurrection, and in Your coming is our joy! *(People silently offer their personal confessions to God.)* In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News:

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Response **Glory Be to the Father** #961

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.

Passing the Peace

Anthem **This Day**
(Composer: Bob Chilcott)

Scripture Reading **Hebrews 12:1-2 & Philippians 4:4**

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord;

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon **Joy**
The Fruitful Life: Cultivating the Character of Christ

Musical Reflection **O Let Your Soul Now Be Filled with Gladness**
(Composer: Swedish/Ferguson)

Doxology **Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him, above ye heavenly hosts;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Closing Hymn **Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee** #581

Benediction

Postlude **I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art**
(Composer: Edward G. Mead)

Worship Participants

Sermon	Rev. Spencer Lundgaard
Worship Leader	Luke Stoner (9:30)
Announcements	Greg Buell (9:30)
Liturgist	Greg Buell (11:00)
Scripture Reader	Elaine Holmquist (9:30)
Prayers of the People	Beth Dill (9:30)
Director of Music (Traditional)	Jesse Borower (11:00)
Organist	Sharon Peterson (11:00)
Tenor Soloist	Damon Cole (11:00)

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