

# **WORSHIP SERVICE DECEMBER 12, 2021**

## **“How Much is Enough? (Joy)”**

### **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Worship Leaders: Rev. Effie McAvoy. Mary Hunter & Linda Gay

#### **GREETINGS**

As John baptized new converts, he invited them to live with “changed hearts and lives.” When asked how to do that, his answers all point to making sure no one is cheated or left without the basic necessities of life, including the right to not be harassed. A full life of joy, which the prophet Isaiah describes as an ever flowing spring, is the birthright of all children of God. May we act to make it so.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE** Dorothy Fassbender

#### **OPENING PRAYER**

God of hope, you call us home from the exile of selfish oppression to the freedom of justice, the balm of healing, and the joy of sharing. Make us strong to join you in your holy work, as friends of strangers and victims, companions of those whom others shun, and as the happiness of those whose hearts are broken. We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. By:Vanderbilt Divinity Library

**MUSIC** “Joy Waits For Us At Advent”  
Delbert Collins

#### **ADVENT LIGHTING**

Today we offer the Light of Joy to illumine the Door of Welcome. May this light shine in our hearts, in our lives, and in our church. May Joy awaken us to possibilities and lead us to greater hospitality. There IS room in this Inn, a House for the Holy. Joy waits for us at Advent Joy waits for us to sing. Joy waits for our amazement at the grace in everything. In this time of preparation for the work of co-creation, for the birthing of a world where wonder is restored. Joy is born in us once more! Amen.

#### **CHILDREN’S MOMENT**

## DISMISSAL FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN

**MUSIC** “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”      UMH#213  
Choir

## PASTORAL PRAYER

### 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. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory now and forever. Amen.

### PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH  
604 SEVEN MILE ROAD    HOPE, RI. 02831  
401-821-8217    [www.sovumc.org/give-now](http://www.sovumc.org/give-now)

## DOXOLOGY

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lord, these gifts are not payment for services rendered. These aren't our dues necessary for us to belong to this church. We know you made us with a purpose, and so now we give ... on purpose, freely offering to you the best of who we are. Continue to work out your purpose in us. Make us your hands, outstretched, on purpose. Amen.

**MUSIC**            “Make of My Heart a Stable”  
Choir

## SCRIPTURE READING

### Isaiah 12: 2-6

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call on his

name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

### **Luke 3: 7-18**

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

**THE WORD OF GOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD-THANKS BE TO GOD**

**SERMON**            "Baptized in the Spirit"  
                              Re. Effie McAvoy

**MUSIC**            "What Child is This?"                    UMH# 219  
                              Choir

**CLOSING PRAYER**