



# THE Celebration OF Worship

\*Please rise in body or in spirit.

**Prelude**

The Sussex Carol

arr. Dale Wood

**Welcome and Announcements**

**\*Call to Worship**

**Leader:** When we name our joy out loud, it is clear—

**People:** **God is in our joy.**

**Leader:** God is in this room.

**People:** **We have reason to celebrate.**

**Leader:** We have a reason to sing.

**People:** **Thanks be to God for the bright hope of this day.**

**\*Opening Hymn No. 611**

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

HYMN TO JOY

## \*Prayer of Confession

Joyful God,

You told us that in order to enter the kingdom of heaven, we must be like children.

Did you mean that like children, we must practice unhindered joy?

Did you mean that like children, we should lean into laughter, release our cynicism, and open ourselves to delight?

In a world as broken and battered as ours, we admit this often seems easier said than done.

Forgive us, patient God, for the moments when we are so focused on the bad that we miss the good.

Forgive us for hearing the nativity story and staying in our seats instead of jumping for joy.

We know that even now you are sowing delight in our lives.

Open our hearts up to it.

With gratitude we pray...

*(A time of silence for personal confession)*

## \*Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

## Prayer for Illumination

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### LESSON ONE

#### Joy found in Scripture

Scripture Lesson

Luke 2:10 & Isaiah 9:2-3

Practicing Joy

*Meditation*

Faith Kemmler

\*Hymn No. 134

Joy to the World  
Verses 1, 2, and 4

ANTIOCH

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### LESSON TWO

#### Joy found in Community

Scripture Lesson

Matthew 2:10 & Psalm 148

Practicing Joy

*When the hymn begins, please return to your seats.*

\*Hymn No. 133

O Come All Ye Faithful  
Verses 1, 3, and 4

ADESTE FIDELES

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## LESSON THREE

### Joy found in Prayer

#### Scripture Lesson

Psalm 126:1-3 & Isaiah 55:12-13

#### Practicing Joy

*On the provided paper, write or draw three prayers of joy. When you are finished, we encourage you to come forward and lay your prayers in the manger. If you prefer to remain seated, raise your hand and an usher will carry your prayers for you.*

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#### Prayers of the People

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.

#### Offertory Anthem

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

arr. Casting Crowns

#### \*Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

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

#### \*Prayer of Dedication

#### \*Closing Hymn No. 136

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

#### \*Benediction

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**Leading in worship:** Faith Kemmler, Laura Bentley, Jim Burns, Harrison Burgess, and Lauren Moore.



## Offering Envelopes

If you indicated on your pledge card that you would like to receive offering envelopes for 2025, they are now available for you to pick up in the narthex.

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## Giving to Westminster

**ONLINE:** <https://www.westminster-church.org/give>

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## Westminster Staff Contact Information

We would love to hear from you. Give us a call, drop us an email, or stop by the church office.

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