

## Worship for December 12

### **GATHERING MUSIC - Charlie Lee and Scott Lawson – Guitars & Vocals**

**O Come All Ye Faithful (Hymn 133)**

**Hark the Herald Angels Sing (Hymn 119)**

**Angels We Have Heard On High (Hymn 113)**

**Your Name**

### **WELCOME & LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

**Elvice Kotangonda & Sostene Go**

It's a joyous reunion, every time we go home, every time we embrace those we love, no matter how long it has been. It feels like sunrise, like the clouds are parting and the rain has ended. It is joy to embrace those who are home for us, who make home for us.

We rejoice at the thought of going home. The prophets tell us to imagine being set free, being unburdened, to fully live in the grace and wonder of life itself, surrounded by those who love us like no one else. And then to live like that was our truth even now, even here.

We must choose to live in this joy. It doesn't just happen; we choose to make life a joy by how we love others, by how we serve and give and care for others, by how we do the job we do and how we impact the world around us.

We light three candles, the candles of hope, and of peace, and of joy, as a sign that we are on our way home, and can see the destination and it is pure joy. It is time to go home.

Rest in that good news. Let it wash over you. Family of faith, we are close to home. Home is close to us.

**HYMN 88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, verse 3**

### **OPENING MUSIC – Little Drummer Boy (need slides)**

### **SEEKING GOD'S FORGIVENESS**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not heeded your call to prepare the way of the Lord. In the midst of your glorious creation, we have neglected our role in its care. We have ignored the cries of the hurting and the lonely. We have forgotten those on the margins and those who are oppressed. Forgive us, O God, when we focus on our own desires, while forgetting the needs of our neighbors. Grant us your mercy and lead us to act with compassion, justice, and love.**

**(silent prayers)**

(adapted Call to Worship Vol. 55.1)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

## **HYMN 123 *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*, verses 1,2,5**

### **CHILDREN'S CONVERSATION**

### **SCRIPTURE READING John 16: 16-24**

<sup>16</sup> "A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while, and you will see me." <sup>17</sup> Then some of his disciples said to one another, "What does he mean by saying to us, 'A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while, and you will see me'; and 'Because I am going to the Father'?" <sup>18</sup> They said, "What does he mean by this 'a little while'? We do not know what he is talking about." <sup>19</sup> Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, "Are you discussing among yourselves what I meant when I said, 'A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while, and you will see me'?" <sup>20</sup> Very truly, I tell you, you will weep and mourn, but the world will rejoice; you will have pain, but your pain will turn into joy. <sup>21</sup> When a woman is in labor, she has pain, because her hour has come. But when her child is born, she no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy of having brought a human being into the world. <sup>22</sup> So you have pain now; but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you. <sup>23</sup> On that day you will ask nothing of me. Very truly, I tell you, if you ask anything of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. <sup>24</sup> Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete.

**SERMON**     ***Complete Joy***

**Rev. Scott Lawson**

**ANTHEM - *Mary, Did You Know?*, Mark Lowry & Buddy Greene; arr. Tom Fettke  
Starmount Chancel Choir**

### **INVITATION TO GENEROSITY**

Offering boxes are available at the back of the sanctuary.  
Gifts may also be made online at [starmountpres.org](http://starmountpres.org).

### **Welcome of New Members**

**Mary Cuadras**

**Susan Siler**

**Howard & Diane Williams**

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

### **Apostle's Creed**

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 Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sits on 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 Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.

Amen.

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER**

**HYMN 118 *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks, verses 1,2,3,6***

## **BENEDICTION**