



Seventh & James Baptist Church
December 11, 2022 · 11:00 a.m.
The Third Sunday of Advent

Litany of Overcoming

Tammie Hartgroves

One: The desert boasts a torrid, barren landscape demanding reverence from all who would cross, and yet, when the spring rains visit and leave their rejuvenating mark, flowers begin to bloom against all odds.

Many: We gather in the midst of accusations of futility, against the cultural norms, to be united in spirit and in Your Spirit.

One: Blooms in the desert stand defiant against the desolation in which they grow. We stand in defiance of the despair that would have us submit to the lesser demons and turn a deaf ear to the greater angels.

Many: May we hear their song of annunciation and the rose that is to come.

One: Every recipient of the angels' glad tidings had to first listen past their fear.

All: Open our ears to the whisper of heaven, shouting to us the Good News of God's presence in our midst, and God's grace in our lives.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Tammie Hartgroves

Meditation

“Advent Alleluia”

arr. Keith Christopher

YOUTH CHOIR

Carolien Tantra, *piano*
Kristen Mortenson, *violin*

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10

Sean Sutcliffe

Epistle Reading

James 5:7-10

Yuri Hatakeyama

Hymn, No. 95

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

Gospel Reading

Matthew 11:2-11

Scott Turner

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

Many: Thanks be to God.

Prayers of God's People

Scott Turner

Offertory

“Wake, Awake for Night is Flying”

arr. Ron Mallory

YOUTH HANDBELL CHOIR

Offering plates are available at the doors of the sanctuary as you leave worship.

Doxology

(Sung to Veni Emmanuel, tune of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel")

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God, above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Children's Sermon

Leslie Rosencrans

*All children are invited to come forward for the Children's Sermon.
Preschoolers [ages 4-kindergarten] may then go to Extended Session.*

Responsive Reading of Psalm 146:5-10

Erin Conaway

One: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God,

Many: who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever;

One: who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free;

Many: the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.

One: The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

All: The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!

Anthem

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

arr. Ralph Hunter

O come, O come Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!
O Come, thou Dayspring from on high
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadow put to flight
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come desire of nations,
Bind in one the hearts of all mankind.
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Sermon

“Who Is He? Who Am I?”
(Matthew 11:2-11)

Erin Conaway

Silent Reflection

*I will light candles this Christmas,
Candles of joy despite all the sadness,
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,
Candles of courage for fears ever present,
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,
Candles of love to inspire all my living,
Candles that will burn all year long.*

— Howard Thurman

Hymn of Commitment, No. 99

“View the Present Through the Promise”

*If you would like to make a public profession of your faith in Christ
or request membership in this congregation, our ministers
will greet you at the front of the sanctuary.*

Congregational Response

In response to your decision, we pledge ourselves to be the family of God for you in this place; we offer you our love, our care, our kinship, and our hopes; we hope to learn from you, give to you, and receive from you, by God’s grace. Amen.

Pastoral Blessing

Erin Conaway

Choral Response “Dance and Sing, for the Lord Will Be With Us”

Ancient Hebrew
Folk Melody
arr. Hal H. Hopson

CHORISTERS

Jim Williams, *piano*
Lorie Crowder, *percussion*

Postlude

“Angels We Have Heard On High”

(GLORIA)
arr. Fred Bock

Today at Seventh

Children’s Handbell Choir

Charlie Coker
Robin Land
Audrey Ludwig

Mathis McKeever
Avery Poehls
Patrick Poehls

Chloe Smith
Wesley Zuniga

Choristers

Ben Coker
Charlie Coker
Dillan Damping
Eri Hatakeyama
Robin Land

Audrey Ludwig
Ezriela Martinez
Keziah Martinez
Zechariah Martinez
Mathis McKeever

Avery Poehls
Patrick Poehls
Chloe Smith
Edward Smith
Wesley Zuniga

Youth Choir

Alex Conaway
Sam Conaway
Yuri Hatakeyama

Ivy Hynan
Sadie Hynan
CJ McKeever

Zoe McKeever
Eli Ryden
Emiliano Valadez

Youth Handbell Choir

Alex Conaway
Sam Conaway
Yuri Hatakeyama

Ivy Hynan
Sadie Hynan
CJ McKeever

Zoe McKeever
Eli Ryden

Our Pianist today is Jim Williams.

The Sanctuary Flowers are given in honor of the children and youth of Seventh & James who work hard in rehearsals each week to lead us in worship.

The Artwork on the Cover is by Sally Lynn Askins.

Hearing devices are available at the sound booth for any who need assistance.

Permission to print music obtained from CCLI, license #1450684.