

EDGEWOOD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Cranston, RI

10:00 AM

December 11, 2022

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Welcome! We invite you into a time of preparation for worship. We invite you to unplug, turn off your phones, unwind from the past week, and focus your hearts on God's presence within, around, and between us all.

Words of Welcome & Announcements

L: God is present. L: Everywhere, all the time.

C: All the time, everywhere. C: God is present.

Prelude

Lighting of the Advent Candles

L: In this holiday season some of us would not describe ourselves as being filled with joy. Some are depressed, feeling the loss of a loved one, or filled with despair.

C: In this season of gatherings and laughter, a season which can seem so festive, for some there isn't much joy and some feel drawn to songs played in a minor key.

L: Yet we hold onto our faith, seeking God's presence, which can lighten the darkness of Despair.

C: Today, in gratitude, we light a candle called Joy, a small, but powerful light, and we pray that this light opens us to God's presence, in and through the joy shared this season.

L: Along with the candles of Hope and Peace, which lighten Fear and Anxieties, I light the candle of Joy to comfort us and support us in the darkness of Despair.

Invocation

*Hymn #107, vs. 1,3,4 "Awake! Awake"

Question(s) for Reflection

Happiness, it seems, can be bought; joy is a gift of the Spirit that lifts us up in love and light, no matter what our circumstances.

What is keeping me from experiencing the joy of God's presence?

Silence

Assurance of Blessing

***Sharing of the Sign of Peace**

Let us celebrate God's great grace by offering to one another a sign of Christ's peace.

Scripture

Isaiah 35:1-10

Sermon

Joyous Gratitude

***Hymn**

#119 "My Soul Gives Glory to My God"

Joys and Concerns / Centering Prayer / Intercessory Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (in unison) from "The Gospel of the Holy Twelve"
Our Father-Mother Who art above and within: Hallowed be Thy name in twofold Trinity. In Wisdom, Love, and Equity Thy kingdom come to all. Thy will be done, as in heaven so in earth. Give us day by day to partake of Thy holy bread and the fruit of the living vine. As Thou dost forgive us our trespasses, so may we forgive others who trespass against us. Show upon us Thy goodness, that to others we may show the same. In the hour of temptation, deliver us from evil. Amen.

Offering

Offertory

*Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.**

*Prayer of Dedication

Loving God, bless these gifts and the givers that all might carry forward the ministry you intend here in this church and community, and wherever there is a need on the face of the earth. Amen.

***Hymn**

#117 "Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates"

The Take Home

It is not joy that makes us grateful. It is gratitude that makes us joyful.

Benediction / Sung Response

"Go, My Children" (tune: #82)

Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone;

**Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own;
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever,
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.**

Postlude

We thank for serving as lay reader this morning.

Browne, Joe DiCiccio, Nancy Soukup, Ricky Brightman, Jeff Gilborn, and Roman Crispi in your prayers.

This month's mission outreach is **Project Outreach**, whose mission is to help families spend meaningful time together during the Christmas season. From now through December 18th, we will collect gift cards to local restaurants, retailers, and recreational venues. Clients of Project Outreach will be able to dine out, shop, or take in a movie with their loved ones. If you would like to participate, please purchase gift cards of \$25 each or make a donation in any amount you would like. Place gift cards and cash/checks in the collection plate on Sunday and be sure to designate your gift for Project Outreach. Donations can also be dropped off at the church office.

Be sure to visit us on the web: <http://edgewoodchurchri.org>

Or on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/Edgewood-Congregational-Church-Renewed-871032246620940/>

Ministers All Members
Office Administrator..... Pat Kohler
Music Coordinator Brenda Farrell Muoio
Sexton Tom Ey
Pastor Rev. Bill Sterrett

EDGEWOOD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
1788 Broad Street, Cranston, Rhode Island 02905

Third Sunday of Advent
Joy



**One filled with JOY preaches
without preaching.**

- Mother Teresa

**No matter who you are or
where you are on life's journey,
you're welcome here.**

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