



**Worship Service for December 15, 2024**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**  
**Blessing of the Animals**

<b>Prelude</b>	Marshall Davies
<b>Chiming of the Hour</b>	Cii-jayy Jones
<b>Welcome</b>	Pastor Felix
<b>Centering Moment</b>	Pastor Felix
<b>Praise and Worship Song</b>	Congregation

**“We Light A Candle”**

We light a candle for hope  
and our world that’s longing for hope  
We light a candle for hope  
and our world that’s longing for hope Holy One,  
shine with the fire of our lives oh  
We light a candle for hope  
and our world that’s longing for hope  
  
We light a candle for love  
and our world that’s longing for love

We light a candle for love  
and our world that's longing for love Holy One,  
shine with the fire of our lives oh

We light a candle for love  
and our world that's longing for love

We light a candle for joy  
and our world that's longing for joy

We light a candle for joy  
and our world that's longing for joy Holy One,  
shine with the fire of our lives oh

We light a candle for joy  
and our world that's longing for joy

We light a candle for peace  
and our world that's longing for peace

We light a candle for peace  
and our world that's longing for peace Holy One,  
shine with the fire of our lives oh

We light a candle for peace  
and our world that's longing for peace

## **Announcements**

Cii-jayy Jones

## **Call to Worship**

Cii-jayy Jones

LEADER: In Advent, we watch and wait in wakeful alertness.

**ALL: In Advent, we prepare to welcome the life of Jesus, who was sent into the world to embody divine truths.**

LEADER: In Advent, we greet the Holy One, who transforms our hearts into living temples.

**ALL: In Advent, we prepare to walk the path of discipleship and mission with unwavering devotion and commitment.**

LEADER: Come, Holy Child, come!

**ALL: Remind us of our divine essence and holy calling to joy.**

LEADER: In Advent, we watch for signs of God's presence birthing new life in our midst.

**ALL: Come, Holy One! Be born among us! Move in and through us! Make yourself known to us! May your joy blossom in our lives.**

**\*Hymn**

Marshall Davies

TNCH #131 "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear vs. 1 &amp; 2

It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glo-rious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth  
To touch their harps of gold;  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,  
Great news of joy we bring."  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,  
With peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heav'nly music floats  
O'er all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
They bend on hovering wing,  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds  
The blessed angels sing.

## Gathering Prayer

## Congregation

**ALL: Holy One, we pray for the power to be gentle; the strength to be forgiving; the patience to be understanding; and the endurance to walk the path of hope, peace, joy, and love. We put our trust in the power of good to overcome evil and the power of love to overcome hatred. Help us devote our lives to alleviating suffering and bringing joy to our world.**

**Amen**

## Lighting of the Advent Candles

Cii-jayy Jones & Pastor Felix

It is the season of short days and long nights. We light this candle to remember that even in natural darkness, our lights shine. The joy of God allows us to look at others through Heaven's eyes and help guide the world to experience God's love. Joy from God empowers us to trust in God's promises despite the dark, scary world around us. Let us slow down

and listen to the sacred voice that is our guide, as we wait to celebrate the coming light in the Child Jesus.

**Biblical Witness**

Pastor Felix

Job 12: 7 & 8

But ask the animals, and they will teach you;  
the birds of the air, and they will tell you;  
ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you;  
and the fish of the sea will declare to you.

**Contemporary Witness**

Pam Conyne

United Nations Environmental Sabbath Program

We join with the earth and with each other  
To bring new life to the land  
To restore the waters  
To refresh the air

We join with the earth and with each other  
To renew the forests

To care for the plants  
To protect all creatures

Meister Eckhart

Apprehend God in all things,  
for God is in all things.  
Every single creature is a word of God.

**Reflection**

Pam Conyne

“The Unicorn at the Manger”

**Special Music**

Marshall Davies

Sing! #174 “Star Child”  
(Piano solo)

**The Blessing Moment of the Animals with Water  
(Symbol of Life & Purity)**

## **A Prayer for All the Animals and Their Well-Being**

**ALL: Hear our humble prayer, O God, for our friends, the animals, especially for those who are suffering; for animals that are overworked, underfed, and cruelly treated; for all the wistful creatures in captivity, that beat their wings against bars; for any that are hunted or lost or deserted, or frightened or hungry; for all that must be put to death. We entreat for them all Thy mercy and pity, and for those who deal with them, we ask a heart of compassion and gentle hands and kindly words. Make us, ourselves, to be true friends to animals and so to share the blessings of the Merciful.**

**Amen**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Pastor Felix**

**Invitation to Offering**

**Cii-jayy Jones**

**Double Down For Plymouth**

**Offertory Music**

**Marshall Davies**



**\*Doxology**

Congregation

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.

**Offertory Prayer**

Cii-jayy Jones

**ALL: Holy One, we commit what we have offered to help sow seeds of hope, peace, joy, and love in the world. Bless now these offerings. May they be used in the service of your divine light.**

**Amen.**

**\*Hymn**

Congregation

TNCH #148 What Child Is This”

What child is this, who, laid to rest,

On Mary’s lap is sleeping?

Whom angels greet

With anthems sweet

While shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this, the angels sing,

Is Christ, God's holy offering;

Haste, haste your praise to bring

The babe, the child of Mary!

Why lies the Child in manger bare

where ox and ass are feeding?

Give heed, draw near;

for sinners here

the silent Word is pleading.

Nails, spear shall pierce him through,

the cross be borne for me, for you;

Hail, hail the Word made flesh,

the babe, the child of Mary!

Bring gifts of incense, gold, and myrrh;

Come, join in jubilation;

The Holy Child,

Though meek and mild,

Has come with God's salvation.

Raise, raise the song on high,  
The mother sings her lullaby;  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
The babe, the child of Mary!

**Benediction**

Pastor Felix

**Song of Parting**

Congregation

TNCH # 154 "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hill and everywhere.

Go tell the mountain,  
that Jesus Christ is born!

(x2)

**Postlude**

Marshall Davies

### **Today's Worship Participants**

Worship Leader: Cii-jayy Jones

Guest Speaker: Pam Conyne

Sound: Scott Edmonds

Video: Tony Trosclair

Projector: Amie & Shelby-Mak Friday

YouTube Host: Mary Lowell

**Rev. Felix Carrión**

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