



Bellflower UMC

December 17, 2023

Third Sunday of Advent

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

PRELUDE & CANDLE LIGHTING¹ 🎵

CALL TO WORSHIP²

Have you noticed? Are you paying attention? God is doing a new thing.

We watch and wait in the fierce joy of the coming Messiah.

You know the captives? God is bringing freedom. You know the brokenhearted? God is bringing healing.

We watch and wait in the fierce joy of the coming Messiah.

Beloved, listen. God is calling you. To be freed and to free your neighbors. To be healed and to heal your community. To testify to the Light among us.

We watch and wait in the fierce joy of the coming Messiah.

So, let us join our voices and our hearts as we proclaim the story of the one whose coming we anticipate and yet is already as close as our own breath.

We come to watch, to wait, and to worship in the fierce joy of Jesus Christ, the coming Messiah. Amen.

↑³HYMN 🎵

240. Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

↑PSALM

847. Psalm 126

↑SCRIPTURE

John 1:6-8, 19-28

¹ Cover art by KaLisa Veer, <https://unsplash.com/@kalisaveer>

² Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, June 2023.

³ ↑ = Please stand as you are able.

SCRIPTURE

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

↑HYMN

89. Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

DISCUSSION

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER - #895

RESPONSE

Hear our prayer, O Lord.

Hear our prayer, O Lord.

Incline Thine ear to us,

and grant us Thy peace. Amen.

OFFERING & PEACE

DOXOLOGY - #95

HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Eternal God, we give you thanks

for this holy mystery

in which you have given yourself to us.

Grant that we may go into the world

in the strength of your Spirit,

to give ourselves for others,

in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SENDING FORTH⁴

May the God of peace and joy sanctify you entirely; and
may God keep your spirit and soul and body sound and
blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Rejoice always; pray without ceasing, give thanks in all
circumstances; and go in peace.

POSTLUDE

Go Now In Peace

⁴ 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 (paraphrase)

Week 51 Reading Plan:

Mon	1 Timothy 1-6	Fri	Hebrews 1-6
Tue	2 Timothy 1-4		
Wed	Titus 1-3	Sat	Hebrews 7-10
Thu	1 Peter 1-5	Sun	Hebrews 11-13

Bellflower UMC spreads God's love within our church family and throughout our communities and world using our prayers, our gifts and our service; thus to become a shelter of love and a community of compassion..

To learn more, visit facebook.com/Bellflower.UMC

If you would like a prayer, a visit, a meal, to have Holy Communion brought to your home, or have any other need, please contact any church member or Pastor Rob (309-722-1500, rob@methodist.cc).