



Bellflower UMC

December 12, 2021

Third Sunday Of Advent

GREETINGS ^{1 2}

Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
Guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the bird, is on the way.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

PRELUDE & CANDLE LIGHTING

CALL TO WORSHIP³

Pastor: A path to our God,

People: Winding through the ordinary,

Pastor: Weaving through the busyness,

People: Overcoming roadblocks and detours.

Pastor: A way to go home,

People: Leaving the past in the past,

Pastor: Moving from darkness and exile,

People: Coming into the light.

Pastor: Advent is a path to our God,

People: A way to come home,

Pastor: A discovery of God's voice:

People: Rejoice, rejoice. God is with us!

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING⁴

Reader One: It's a 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, nothing less than pure

¹ Cover art by John Stuart, www.stushieart.com.

² Eleanor Farjeon. *People, Look East*. 1928.

³ Dr. Derek C. Weber, Discipleship Ministries. <http://umcdiscipleship.org>

⁴ Dr. Derek C. Weber, Discipleship Ministries. <http://umcdiscipleship.org>

joy to grab hold of those who are home for us, who make home for us. Whether we wake up to them every day, or travel many miles to see them again, it is joy to go home.

Reader Two: The prophet Zephaniah tells us to rejoice at the thought of going home. The prophet tells us to imagine being set free, being unburdened, being released to live, 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. It is joy to go home.

Reader One: John the Baptist reminds us, however, that it takes choices 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 build joy as we build a home in this world and the next.

Reader Two: We light these candles, the candle of hope, and of peace, and of joy, as a sign that we are on our way home, and we walk with a skip in our step because we can see the destination, and it is pure joy. It is time to go home.

Light three candles in the Advent wreath. If using a rose or pink colored candle in the wreath, this is the time to light that one.

HYMN

Joy to the World - UMH246

O come, O come, Emmanuel - UMH211

CHILDREN'S SERMON

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER - UMH895

OT READING - Zephaniah 3:14-20

GOSPEL - Luke 3:7-18

SERMON

OFFERING & PEACE

 DOXOLOGY - UMH95

HOLY COMMUNION

BENEDICTION⁵

You know the time is coming!

The time to wake from our sleep.

Salvation is nearer to us now than
when we became believers.

The night is gone, the day is near.

Let us lay aside the works of darkness.

We will wear the armor of light.

 HYMN - Go Now In Peace

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, pastor@bellflower-umc.org).

⁵ UM Book of Worship, 243. Adapted.