



An Open & Affirming Congregation in the United Church of Christ
Order of Worship for 12/11/2022 ~ **Third Sunday of Advent: JOY**
Rev. Amelia Fulbright, Transitional Pastor

Prelude: Improvisation on “God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me”

Welcome

Call to Worship (Unison):

*My soul is alive with thoughts of God. What a wonder, Their liberating works.
Though the world has been harsh to me, God has shown me kindness, seen my worth, and
called me to courage. Surely, those who come after me will call me blessed.
Even when my heart weighs heavy with grief, still, so does hope abide with me.
Holy is the One who makes it so. From generation to generation, Love’s Mercy is freely
handed out; None are beyond the borders of God’s transforming compassion.*

(A modern interpretation of Mary's Magnificat, from *enfleshed*)

***Hymn of Celebration:** Red Hymnal #100 “Canticle of the Turning”

Lighting the Candle of Joy

*Response: Black Hymnal #136 “Jesus, Jesus, Oh What a Wonderful Child”

*Jesus, Jesus, oh, what a wonderful child.
Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek, and mild;
new life, new joy, the Child will bring.
Listen to the angels sing, “Glory, glory, glory,
let the heavens ring!*

Listening To the Sacred Text: Luke 1:46b-55 (NRSV)

Listening for the Spirit in Silence:

Word and words, O God. Help us to hear the One among the many.

Reflecting: “Feeling Joy as Resistance” Britt Hicks, preaching

Meditation in Song: “Christmas Lullaby” Jason Robert Brown

