

**The Worship of God**  
December 16, 2018 · 10:45 am  
Third Sunday of Advent

The Moravian star displayed at the front of the sanctuary is a traditional Advent decoration of the Moravian church. The star reminds us of the star that guided the Magi to find the Christ child. The star also symbolizes the Christ Child himself of whom Scripture prophesied, "A star shall come out of Jacob," (Numbers 24:17).

**GATHERING as God's Children**

Introit **There in God's Garden** SHADES MOUNTAIN

Welcome and Invocation Jennifer Rygg

As we gather for worship, please sign the friendship register and pass it down the pew.  
If you are the last to sign, please date and tear out the sheet and place it in the offering plate.

Call to Worship **O Holy Night** Tammy Gladson

Lighting the Advent Candles The Baldwin-Robinson Family - Don, Sue, Jean, and Trina

On this third Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of joy. Paul writes to the Philippians, **"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice."**

During the Advent season, we wait with joyful anticipation for the unfolding of God's plan. The prophet foretold God's plan in the book of Isaiah: "A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots."

Today we reflect on the image of God as Our Living Branch. God brings new life to that which seems dead. God is the source of our joy, the promise that refreshes our spirits, the reason for our rejoicing during these busy days. Jesus said, **"I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit."**

Rejoice! The Lord is drawing near.

**Our joy is in God, Our Living Branch.**

(Philippians 4:4, Isaiah 11:1, John 15:5)

**RECEIVING the Word of God and RESPONDING to God in Worship and Service**

Sanctuary Choir Cantata (part 1) **SING JOY TO ALL THE WORLD** Lloyd Larson  
Narrated by Dale Chandler

**Tidings of Comfort and Joy**

Isaiah 9:2-6

**A Light Shall Shine**

Lou Wood, soloist

Isaiah 40:1-5

**Prepare the Way**

Reflection **Finding Joy in Advent with God our Living Branch** Jennifer Rygg

++Offertory Hymn **No. 105** **Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming** ES IST EIN ROS'

Offertory Prayer Trina Baldwin

Offertory **He Shall Feed His Flock** G.F. Handel

++Offertory Response (**see insert**) **What Can I Give Him?** CASTLE  
After the song, children ages 4 - 2nd grade may be dismissed to Children's Chapel.

Sanctuary Choir Cantata (part 2) **SING JOY TO ALL THE WORLD** Lloyd Larson  
Narrated by Dale Chandler

Luke 2:1-7

**David's Royal City**

Luke 2:8-14

**Glory in the Highest**

Luke 1:46-49

**Joy of Every Longing Heart**

Luke 1:50-55

**Worship Christ, the Newborn King**

Invitation to Respond Jennifer Rygg

++ Carol of Joy **No. 127**      **Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**      MENDELSSOHN

During the song of response, our pastor is available for those who desire to follow Christ as Savior, to renew their relationship with God, to unite with this church, or to seek prayer.

**GOING Into the World**

Announcements      Jennifer Rygg

Choral Benediction      **Sing Joy to All the World**      Lloyd Larson  
Sanctuary Choir

++ Benediction Hymn **No. 102**      **Joy to the World! The Lord is Come**      ANTIOCH  
(verses 1 & 2)

As the candles are extinguished, the flame is carried from the sanctuary to represent the Hope, Peace, and Joy we carry with us as we go into the world.

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++ Congregation is invited to stand. Those who prefer may remain seated. CCLI License # 1542736

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**Worship Notes**

**Sing Joy to All the World**, today's Christmas Cantata, is written by Lloyd Larson. Thanks to **Kathleen Hensen** for accompanying on piano and to **Dale Chandler** for narrating.

**Children and Worship:** Children of all ages are welcome to join us for worship.

**Nursery** care is available in room 102 for children ages 4 and younger.

**Children's Bulletins** are available at the sanctuary entrances.

**Children's Chapel** is provided in room 211 during the part of the service for ages 4 - 2nd grade.

**Worship Bags** are available in front of the first pew on each side of the sanctuary. Children are encouraged to take a bag at the beginning of the service and return it to the hook at the end of the service.

**Special Events for Advent and Christmas**

Sun, Dec 16    3-5 pm    Drop-in at Pastor's Home (207 Nottingham Way, Anderson)  
Wed, Dec 19    6:30 pm    Christmas Caroling (after supper)  
Mon, Dec 24    5:30 pm    Christmas Eve Worship

**every member a minister**

**FULL-TIME STAFF**

Rev. Jennifer McClung Rygg · Pastor; Rev. Chris Cottingham · Minister of Music and Youth;  
Joseph Reed · Office Manager

**PART-TIME STAFF**

Marlena Dixon · Building Manager; Keleigh Frazier · Director of Children's Ministry  
Richard Huss · Organist; Rev. Cara Morgan · Ministerial Intern  
Diane Scott · Senior Fellowship Coordinator; Becky Westmoreland · Financial Assistant



Welcome to our Advent worship series, **God With Us**.

Each week in this series focuses on a different word picture of the coming Christ found in the poetic and prophetic words of Isaiah. In our worship for today, we will remember that God is with us as **Our Living Branch**, who died and rose to give us eternal life.

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**Third Sunday of Advent**

First Baptist Church of Pendleton  
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(864) 646-3913      [www.fbcpendleton.org](http://www.fbcpendleton.org)