



(Luke 1:19)

Sow Good News

INDEPENDENCE PRESBYTERIAN

THE OLD STONE CHURCH OF INDEPENDENCE



I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this Good News.

LESSONS AND CAROLS SERVICE

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Joy ~ December 17, 2023



C.J. Briggs, Music Director
Julie Lehmann, Church Secretary

Paul Gronwall, Liturgist
Rev. David B. Wigger, Pastor

Joy is sneaky in that way. It doesn't discriminate between tragic time and ordinary time. It's not a joy we can "choose" because that would often mean ignoring the reality of our heartbreak or circumstances. It just happens. Somehow. Some way. Showing up uninvited even in the most unlikely of situations. ~ Kate Bowler

***LESSON OF ASSURANCE**THE LAMB
From Songs of Innocence by William Blake

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

~ *LISTENING* ~

LESSON.....ONE SOLITARY LIFE
by Dr. James A. Francis (1864-1928)

CAROL #88.....O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL
Latin prose (VENI EMMANUEL)

LESSON.....A BRAVE AND STARTLING TRUTH
by Maya Angelou (1928-2014)

CAROL #103COME NOW, O PRINCE OF PEACE
by Geonyong Lee (O-SO-SO)

LESSON.....THE SHEPHERDS AND THE ANGELS
The Gospel According to Luke 2:8-16

CAROL #113ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH
French carol, trans. James Chadwick (GLORIA)

~ *RESPONDING* ~

***BLESS THIS ADVENT – JOY** (*from The Lives We Actually Have*)

“Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 15:13)

Blessed are we who wait with bated breath. who wait for something new to be born —for new hope or new joy or new life.

Surprise us with joy in the midst of the mundane, abundance in the midst of so much scarcity, presence in the midst of the Christmas chaos.

Blessed are we whose patience grows thinner by the day. We who are tired of the world as it is —in all of its heartache and loss and hopelessness. We who want more. More hope. More joy. More life.

