



# WORSHIP

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Warren Howell, Editor

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# December 13, 2020: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent, Year B

**Color:** Blue or Purple

**Scriptures:** [Scripture linked to NRSV at Oremus Bible Browser]

[Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11](#) (*Righteousness and praise will spring up*)

[Luke 1:46b-55](#) (*The song of Mary*)

[1 Thessalonians 5:16-24](#) (*Kept in faith until the Lord's coming*)

[John 1:6-8, 19-28](#) (*John gives witness to the light*)

**Themes:** Preparation, Watchfulness, Justice, Mary, Joy

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**The FOCAL PASSAGE on Faithelement's podcast for this week is 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

(Podcast will be ready 2 weeks before date of use)

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## HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Hymn Suggestions link to [Hymnary.org](http://Hymnary.org), a searchable resource with a wealth of information. The tunes listed here are the ones most commonly associated with the texts, and the biblical/thematic references suggest the hymn's association with the morning's scriptures or themes.

<a href="#">Arise, Your Light Is Come</a> (FESTAL SONG).....	Isaiah, John
<a href="#">Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus</a> (BEECHER; HYFRYDOL) .....	Isaiah
<a href="#">Comfort, Comfort, Now My People</a> (GENEVAN 42 aka FREU DICH SEHR) .....	John
<a href="#">Hail to the Lord's Anointed</a> (ELLACOMBE; SHEFFIELD) .....	Isaiah, Luke
<a href="#">I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light</a> (HOUSTON) .....	John
<a href="#">Joy to the World</a> (ANTIOCH).....	Luke, John
<a href="#">My Soul Cries Out (Canticle)</a> (STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN).....	Luke
<a href="#">My Soul Proclaims With Wonder</a> (WALNUT).....	Luke
<a href="#">O Come, O Come Emmanuel</a> (VENI EMMANUEL) .....	Isaiah, Luke
<a href="#">O Day of Peace that Dimly Shines</a> (JERUSALEM; CANDLER).....	Isaiah
<a href="#">On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry</a> (PUER NOBIS NASCITUR; WINCHESTER NEW).....	Isaiah, Luke
<a href="#">Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers</a> (LLANGLOFFAN) .....	Isaiah, Luke
<a href="#">Spirit of Gentleness</a> (SPIRIT).....	Isaiah, Luke
<a href="#">Tell Out, My Soul</a> (WOODLANDS).....	Luke
<a href="#">Young Mary Lived in Nazareth</a> (BALLAD OF MARY) .....	Luke

## ANTHEMS

*E = Easy, M = Moderate, MD = Moderately Difficult*

**All Praise to Thee – M** ..... John  
Elaine Hagenberg  
© 2015, Beckenhorst Press, BP 2056  
SATB, Piano

**Canticle of the Turning - E** ..... Luke  
*STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN*/Rory Cooney, arr.  
© 1990, GIA Publications, G-3407  
SAB, (opt. Congr.), Keyboard, Guitar, C-Instruments

**Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus – E** ..... Isaiah  
*JEFFERSON*/Robert Hobby, arr.  
© 2010, MorningStar Music, MSM-50-1951  
2-Part Mixed, Organ, opt. Windchimes

**Make We Merry – MD** ..... Luke  
Andrew Carter  
© 1977, Banks Music, KP.ECS103  
SATB, Keyboard

**A New Magnificat – M** ..... Luke  
Carolyn Jennings  
© 1981, Augsburg Fortress, 9780800652555  
SATB, Organ

**Now the Heavens Begin to Whisper – E** ..... Isaiah  
*SUO GAN*/Thomas Keesecker, arr.  
© 2017, Augsburg Fortress, 9781506426105  
SAB, Piano

**On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry – M** ..... John  
*PUER NOBIS NASCITUR*/Donald Busarow, arr.  
© 1984, Concordia Publishing, 98-2639  
SAB, Organ, Oboe

**Little Babe, Born of Mary – MD** ..... Luke, Christmas  
James Kevin Gray  
© 2017, Oxford University Press, X 692  
SATB, a cappella

**The Spirit of the Lord – ME** ..... Isaiah  
Philip Stopford  
© 2012, MorningStar Music, MSM-50-2525  
SATB, Organ, opt. Flute, Violin, Brass, Timpani

**The Spirit of the Lord is Upon Me – MD** ..... Isaiah  
Edward Elgar/Hal Hopson, arr.  
© 1989, Carl Fischer, CM 8286  
SATB, Keyboard

– CHILDREN AND YOUTH –

**Magnificat – ME** ..... Luke  
Ruth Elaine Schram  
© 2004, Augsburg Fortress, 9780800676681  
2-Part, Keyboard, opt. Flute

**An Advent Prayer – E** ..... 1 Thessalonians  
Allen Pote  
© 1984, Hinshaw Music, HMC-765  
2-Part Mixed, Keyboard

**Good Christian Friends, Rejoice – E** ..... Luke  
*IN DULCI JUBILO*/Trevor Manor, arr.  
© 2014, Choristers Guild, CGA1353  
Unison/2-Part, Keyboard, opt. Handbells

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## ADDITIONAL MATERIAL (Prayers, Poems, Quotes & Liturgies)

### AFTER ANNUNCIATION

*This is the irrational season  
When love blooms bright and wild.  
Had Mary been filled with reason  
There'd have been no room for the child.*

— MADELEINE L'ENGLE, *The Ordering of Love*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*(Luke 1)*

What grows in you, my people?

**A blessing from the Lord.**

What blessing have you received?

**The promise of God.**

And what has God promised?

**God promised mercy, God promised relief for the oppressed,**

**food for the hungry and strength from generation to generation.**

And has God kept this promise?

**Our spirits rejoice in God, our Savior, who has looked with favor on us.**

Food and wealth? Strength and power?

**The Lord has helped us and kept this promise.**

What grows in you, my people?

**A blessing from the Lord, to be shared as light to the world.**

— Martha D. Kearse\*

## ADVENT WREATH/CANDLELIGHTING

Week 3: The Candle of Joy

READING (Isaiah 61:10a, 11)

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being  
shall exult in my God. For as the earth brings  
forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is  
sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will  
cause righteousness and praise to spring up  
before all the nations.

LITANY

O come, Immanuel, God-with-us.

**Come Light. Come Joy.**

Shine in the shadows.

**Brighten your world.**

It is with JOY that we light a candle,

**for righteousness and peace will spring up.**

SONG

**Light the candle of joy.**

**Let its glow warm your heart**

**till your praise begins to grow.**

**May we open our eyes**

**to God's love in full view.**

**Jesus will be born,**

**making all things anew.**

— "Light the Candle," by James Kevin Gray\*

(Music on p. 7)

## THE VOICE – A READING FOR ILLUMINATION

(John 1)

Who are you? They asked him.  
I am the Voice, he said.  
What are you? They still did not understand.  
I am the Voice that leads you to the Way, he answered.  
What is the Way? Their curiosity continued.  
The Way leads you to the Water, he answered.  
What is in the water? They were confused.  
The Water is where you will find the Light, he said.  
Are you the light? They wondered, hopefully.  
No, he answered, I am the Voice.  
I am crying out in the wilderness, to turn your head,  
to lead you to the water, where you will find the Light.  
Listen, he said. I am the Voice.

— MDK

*Be a new annunciation,  
Become a door through which to be hospitable.*

— DAVID WHYTE, from "Coleman's Bed"

## READING OF ISAIAH 61 FOR TWO READERS

Reader 1: I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being will exult in my God;  
Reader 2: My voice will shout for joy, my hands will clap, my feet will dance;  
Reader 1: The earth around me rejoices as well,  
Reader 2: The gardens bloom, the oaks explode with color.  
Reader 1: For the Lord has sent me with good news:  
Reader 2: Good news for prisoners, for the broken-hearted, for the captive,  
the oppressed, for those who mourn—  
Reader 1: God has sent me to say this:  
Reader 2: "I, the Lord, love justice. I hate when lives and wealth are stolen.  
Reader 1: I, the Lord, made a covenant with those who are broken; I will give...  
Reader 2: Comfort, to those who mourn;  
Reader 1: Garlands, instead of ashes;  
Reader 2: Oil, instead of mourning;  
Reader 1: A mantle of praise to heal their faint spirits.  
Reader 2: I, the Lord, will build a new city founded on justice and peace."  
Reader 1: And so, I will greatly rejoice, my whole being will exult in my God.  
Reader 2: I will greatly rejoice, and all that I am will never stop rejoicing.

— MDK

## TWO PRAYERS

(1. Isaiah 61)

Lord of the broken-hearted, Lord of shattered windows in the ruins of a battle-battered town, we come to you, the one who meets us where we are. We come to the one who meets us inside of our cell, who knows the heart of the oppressor and the heart of the oppressed. We come to the one who finds us in captivity, torn from all we know and taken where we do not want to go. We come to the one who sees us when we mourn, who sits beside us as our tears fall like a flash flood around our feet. We come to you, our Lord, because you have taught us that we can. We come because of your vision for our lives, because you see us differently than we see ourselves. We see ourselves mired in the injustice of our systems; you see us freed because we turned toward you for justice. We see ourselves caught by our individualism and the hamster wheel of work our culture requires; you see us walking in your garden, where we have everything we need and more. We see ourselves alone, in the ruins of the world we created for ourselves; you see us together in the glittering city that belongs to you. Turn our hearts to each other and to you. Turn our fears into confidence in you. Turn our mourning into celebration with you. Bring us to your garden, ground us in your soil. Help us to grow into the oaks of righteousness that ring your city. We rejoice in the very thought of this possibility and pray fervently that it may be so. Amen.

— MDK

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(2. 1 Thessalonians 5)

*Each supplication concludes with the statement: “We rejoice in our Lord,”  
and is followed by the people’s response: “Hear our constant prayer, O Lord.”*

Leader: Hear our constant prayer, O Lord. We rejoice in our Lord. . .

Leader: We give thanks for all we have been given, and for all we have been given to endure. We rejoice in our Lord. . .

Leader: We give thanks for those you have sent to us, the troublesome prophets who tell us truth we do not wish to hear. We rejoice in our Lord. . .

Leader: We are trying to hold fast to what is good and stay away from what is evil, giving thanks for the unquenchable Spirit who is present with us always. We rejoice in our Lord. . .

Leader: We are sanctified and made whole by the God of Peace, our faithful God. We rejoice in our Lord.

— MDK

+ + +

*And—do you feel the pulse?—we all become  
the kindled kindred of a king whose birth  
thereafter bears to all a bright nativity.*

— SCOTT CAIRNS, from “Annunciation”

## A READING FOR WOMEN'S VOICES

*(Luke 1)*

Reader 1: I carried him in my body; I felt him alive in me before I ever saw his face.  
Reader 2: I cared for him as he grew, washed his face, and taught him all I knew.  
Reader 3: I watched him leave and step into the world, proud of him and terrified all at once.  
Reader 1: Child of my heart, made from my own body, growing mysteriously inside of me even as I gave him what strength I had;  
Reader 2: Child of my heart, dancing around my feet, laughing and crying, asking questions and sleeping in blessed peace, growing up in front of my eyes while I fed him all I had to share;  
Reader 3: Child of my heart, walking away, more now than what I have been, more than I had to give, stepping into dangers for which I have no shield, reaching out to give to others more than I had to give to him;  
Reader 1: You were yourself from the start,  
Reader 2: But you are also part of me.  
Reader 3: I wonder at the mystery of you, the blessing that I should be part of your story.  
Reader 1: Your life in me,  
Reader 2: Your life beside me,  
Reader 3: Your life beyond me.  
Reader 1: I live in you,  
Reader 2: And you in me.  
All Readers: We are separate, but inseparable.  
Reader 3: My soul magnifies the Lord—surely, from now on, all generations will call me,  
All Readers: Blessed.

— MDK

## BENEDICTION/SENDING

*(1 Thessalonians 5)*

And now may the God of peace, who is faithful to us all, sanctify you entirely. May your spirit and soul and body be kept sound; may the Spirit that moves in you never be extinguished; may you keep around you, all the time, the gratitude and goodness that come from Jesus, the Christ. May the will of God surround you and go out in peace. Amen.

— MDK

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\* Thanks to Rev. Dr. Martha Dixon Kearse, Pastor,  
[Peakland Baptist Church](#), Lynchburg, Virginia, for contributing this week's liturgy.  
Learn about her story, in her 2018 book,  
[The Sun Is Up: One Minister's Awakening to Racial Reconciliation](#).

\* And thanks to James Kevin Gray, Minister for Worship and Arts,  
[St. John's Baptist Church](#), Charlotte, North Carolina,  
for his musical composition in this week's candle lighting liturgy.  
More of Kevin's music can be found at [Jameskevingraycomposer.com](#).

# Light the Candle

words and music by James Kevin Gray

$\text{♩} = 70$  *legato* *mp*

Light the can - dle of hope. Let its  
peace.  
joy.  
love.

*mp*

*legato/ flowing and sustained*

7

glow warm your heart till your heart o - ver - flows. May we o - pen our  
hurt finds re - lease.  
praise be - gins to grow.  
bring - ing light from a - bove.

12

eyes to God's love in full view. Je - sus will be

16

born, ma - king all things a - new.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 3/4 time signature. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 70. The score is divided into four systems, each with a measure number (1, 7, 12, 16) at the beginning of the vocal line. The vocal line is in a soprano or alto clef, and the piano accompaniment is in a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The lyrics are written below the vocal line, with some words on multiple lines to accommodate the melody. The score includes dynamic markings like 'mp' (mezzo-piano) and performance instructions like 'legato' and 'legato/ flowing and sustained'. The piece concludes with a double bar line at the end of the fourth system.

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