



*I Believe
in Love, Even When...*

“We Believe in Joy”

Isaiah 57:14-19, Luke 1:1-4, 26-56

December 13, 2020

**THORNDALE
United Methodist Church**

3503 Lincoln Highway, Thorndale, PA 19372

610-384-2433

www.thorndaleumc.org

All Are Welcome!

PRELUDE

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Handbell Choir

WELCOME/INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

THRESHOLD

THEME SONG

I Believe

Josh's Video

+OPENING PRAYER AND LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Leader: Holy One, we thank you for the glimpses we catch
of your gift of the depths of joy.
Even in the midst of fear, of challenge, of struggle—
even when we're not sure of your presence,
ignite the flame of joy within us...

People: ...that we might glow with its brilliance from the inside out.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

**All: God of joy, help us face the silence of unknowing and
embrace it as the pregnant pause before joyful beginnings.**

+GREETING in Sign Language

Renay Oberholtzer

HYMN

Joy to the World

Hymnal #246

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pat Moore & Renay Oberholtzer

TIME OF PRAISE & PRAYER

SCRIPTURE

ISAIAH 57:14-19

It shall be said,
"Build up, build up, prepare the way, remove every obstruction from my people's way."
For thus says the high and lofty one who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy:
I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with those who are contrite and humble in spirit,
to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite.
For I will not continually accuse, nor will I always be angry;
for then the spirits would grow faint before me, even the souls that I have made.
Because of their wicked covetousness I was angry;
I struck them, I hid and was angry; but they kept turning back to their own ways.
I have seen their ways, but I will heal them;
I will lead them and repay them with comfort,
creating for their mourners the fruit of the lips.
Peace, peace, to the far and the near, says the LORD; and I will heal them.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

What Child is This? With Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

Lawrence Rappoldt

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Almighty God, giver of every good and perfect gift, teach us to give to you all that we have and all that we are, that we may praise you not with our words only, but with our whole lives. We offer these gifts today with joy, that they may bring joy to others in Jesus' name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

LUKE 1:1-4, 26-56

Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, I too decided, after investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed.

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Mary Visits Elizabeth

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

Mary's Song of Praise

And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE	<i>“We Believe in Joy”</i>	Pastor Shauna
HOLY COMMUNION		
HYMN	<i>Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee</i>	Hymnal #89
+BENEDICTION		
POSTLUDE	<i>How Great Our Joy! (The Echo Carol)</i>	Lawrence Rappoldt

SERVING TODAY IN WORSHIP

PASTOR	Rev. Shauna K. Ridge	WORSHIP TEAM SHEPHERDS:	
MUSIC	Lawrence Rappoldt	DOOR GREETER	Dave Davis
LITURGIST	Pat Moore	USHER 1	Wayne Barrows
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE	Pat Moore	USHER 2	Cyndy Weiner
	Renay Oberholtzer	TEMP TAKER	Hannah Smith
TECH TEAM	Josh Dwyer	ATTENDANCE	Wayne Barrows
	Terry Moore	FLOATER	Hannah Smith
	Jamie Ridge		

Flowers are given to the glory of God by Mary Jane Hipple.