

# Moran United Methodist Church

## December 12, 2021 – Third Sunday of Advent

### Prelude

Joanne Brown

### Welcome

Rev. Cody Natland

Welcome to worship! We are so glad that you have joined us to worship God today. Whether this is your first Sunday with us or you have been worshipping with us for many years, we want you to know that you are a beloved child of God and you belong here in our church family. If you are joining us in person, please be sure that you wear a face mask and that it covers your mouth and nose. We ask you to please refrain from singing, but invite you to hum, clap, or read along with the music.

### Call To Worship and Advent Candle Lighting

Jeff Johnson

Leader: A voice calls out in the wilderness. It tells of a home for all, a home of justice and peace, a home bursting with joy.

**People: We could choose to ignore it. Instead, we come into this sacred space. We let the world grow quiet and we hear:**

Leader: Joy in the giggles and stretches of a newborn child.

**People: Joy in a tail-wagging dog sliding to meet you at the door.**

Leader: Joy in unabashed laughter freely shared at tables of hospitality and warmth.

**People: Joy in arriving home after a long journey, discovering that you are found when you thought you were lost.**

Leader: Today we light the candle of joy, because the welcome God has for us is nothing short of good news of great...*seriously* great joy!

**People: Today we rejoice, for we are close to home. Let us worship God. Amen.**

### Hymn

"Joy To The World"

Joanne Brown

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his life,  
And wonders of his life, and wonders, wonders of his love.

*Words: Isaac Watts; Music: G. F. Handel and Lowell Mason © Public Domain*

### Prayers of the People

*You are invited to offer your prayers aloud to God or share them in the video comments if joining us on Facebook. Prayer requests can also be emailed to Pastor Cody at [PastorNatland@gmail.com](mailto:PastorNatland@gmail.com)*

### Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Cody Natland

### The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**Song** "Heaven Everywhere"

Janice Wrhel with Crystal Natland

I hear the bells they're ringing loud and clear  
 You can't help but love this time of year  
 It's Christmas time, there's something in the air  
 There's a little bit of heaven everywhere

Somehow there's a little more of love  
 Maybe there's a little less of us  
 Or maybe we're just slightly more aware  
 There's a little bit of heaven everywhere

*Chorus 1:* It's the smile on a man who has finally found hope  
 It's the tears of a mother whose child has come home  
 It's the joy that we feel and the love that we share  
 There's a little bit of heaven everywhere  
 There's a little bit of heaven everywhere

It's funny how it takes a holiday  
 To show us how the world could truly change  
 If we all took the time to really care  
 There'd be a little more of heaven everywhere

*Chorus 2:* It's the grace that we show to a world that needs hope  
 It's giving our lives knowing they're not our own  
 It's the joy that we feel and the love that we share  
 There's a little bit of heaven everywhere

*Bridge:* Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains  
 And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains

*Chorus 3:* It's the joy that we feel and the love that we share  
 There's a little bit of heaven everywhere  
 There's a little bit of heaven everywhere  
 There's a little bit of heaven everywhere

*Ben Glover & Francesca Battistelli © 2012 9t One Songs*

**Scripture**

Jeff Johnson

***Zephaniah 3:14-20 (NRSV)***

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
 shout, O Israel!  
 Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
 O daughter Jerusalem!  
 The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,  
 he has turned away your enemies.  
 The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
 you shall fear disaster no more.  
 On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
 Do not fear, O Zion;  
 do not let your hands grow weak.  
 The LORD, your God, is in your midst,  
 a warrior who gives victory;  
 he will rejoice over you with gladness,

he will renew you in his love;  
 he will exult over you with loud singing  
 as on a day of festival.  
 I will remove disaster from you,  
 so that you will not bear reproach for it.  
 I will deal with all your oppressors  
 at that time.  
 And I will save the lame  
 and gather the outcast,  
 and I will change their shame into praise  
 and renown in all the earth.  
 At that time I will bring you home,  
 at the time when I gather you;  
 for I will make you renowned and praised  
 among all the peoples of the earth,  
 when I restore your fortunes  
 before your eyes, says the LORD.

**Luke 3:1a, 2b-18 (NRSV)**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius [...] the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

- - - -

*Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.   **Response: Thanks be to God.***

**Sermon**            *Close To Home: A Home For All*

Rev. Cody Natland

### **Invitation to the Offering**

*We invite you to give as God leads you to support our church and ministries as we seek to embrace, inspire, and serve, making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. You may place your gift in the offering plates in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall, give online at [www.moranumc.org/give](http://www.moranumc.org/give), or mail your gift to: 3601 E 65<sup>th</sup> Ave / Spokane, WA 99223.*

**Hymn**            "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

Janice Wrhel

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
Give ye heed to what we say: News, news! Jesus Christ is born today!  
Ox and ass behold him bow; and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today, Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye hear of endless bliss: News, news! Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He hath opened heaven's door, and ye are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye need not fear the grave: News, news! Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save, Christ was born to save!

*Translated from Latin by John Mason Neale © Public Domain*

### **Benediction**

Rev. Cody Natland

As *this* service ends, *your* service beings: Comfort the homesick. Open your doors to others. Seek sanctuary. Be brave enough to go home by another way. And remember that here in God's family, all are welcomed – so come back soon. In the name of our Foundation – God, Spirit, and Son – go in peace. Amen.

### **Postlude**

Joanne Brown

*If you would like to greet one another, **we invite you to gather outside** on the entry patio for a time of fellowship, but please do not gather indoors.*

*Call to Worship and Benediction adapted from Rev. Sara (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctified art.org*

*Permission for the use of the music in this service and livestream given by CCLI. CCLI License 1507867; CCLI Streaming License CSPL155631.*

### **Virtual Coffee Hour**

Sundays at 11:30 am on Zoom

Those worshipping virtually are invited to join us on Zoom for a time of fellowship and connection immediately following the worship service.

Join by Computer/Tablet/Smartphone: <https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/96460688631>

Join by Phone (home phone, landline, or cell – no internet required)

+1(253) 215-8782 (Meeting ID: 964 6068 8631)    +1(346) 248-7799 (Meeting ID: 964 6068 8631)

**Christmas Carol Sing-Along**

Sunday, December 19th at 11:30am – Outdoor

After worship on December 19th, we invite you to join us outside on our front patio after worship for fellowship and cookies, and then sharing together in Christmas joy as we sing some beloved Christmas Carols together. This is a great opportunity for fellowship, for safely singing together, and for sharing our church with your family and friends.

---

**Christmas Eve Services -- Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup>****4:00pm — Family Christmas Eve Service**

A shorter, family-oriented service that will include special music and a message for the young disciples in our midst. This service will conclude with gathering outside our front doors for candle lighting and singing "Silent Night."

**8:00pm — Traditional Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion (with Live-Stream)**

This will be our traditional Christmas Eve service, and will include Holy Communion. Special music will be provided by the Sign Choir. This service will conclude with gathering outside our front doors for candle lighting and singing "Silent Night."

The 8:00pm service will also be live-streamed online at [www.facebook.com/moranchurch](http://www.facebook.com/moranchurch)

---

**Worship At Moran UMC -- Sunday Mornings at 10:30 am**

We invite you to join us for worship on Sunday mornings at Moran UMC. Mask wearing and physical distancing will be required by all participants, regardless of vaccination status. Children's Sunday School for children in Preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade is offered in the Disciples/Shepherds Room during the worship service.

**Worship Online -- Sunday Mornings at 10:30 am**

Our worship services continue to be live-streamed online for those who are unable or not yet comfortable returning to in-person services. Our worship services continue to be live-streamed online for those who are unable or not yet comfortable returning to in-person services.

---

**Children's Sunday School (Preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade)**

*Sundays at 10:30 am in the Disciples/Shepherds Room*

Sunday School is offered during our worship service in the Disciples/Shepherds Room. All children and adults must wear masks, and all teachers and other volunteers are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Please bring your child straight back to the classroom when you arrive rather than entering the Sanctuary.

---

**Weekday Morning Prayer Group -- Weekdays at 9am on Zoom**

We meet on Monday through Friday mornings for prayer, scripture, and a short meditation.

Join Morning Prayer by Computer/Smartphone/Tablet: <https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/349727648>

Connect via Phone (home phone, landline, cell phone):

+1 (253) 215-8782 (Meeting ID: 349 727 648)    +1 (346) 248-7799 (Meeting ID: 349 727 648)

---

**Monday Vespers and Holy Communion -- Mondays at 6:30pm**

Connect via Facebook Live: [www.facebook.com/moranchurch](http://www.facebook.com/moranchurch)

Connect via Zoom (computer/tablet/smartphone: <https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/97155799598>

Connect via Phone (home phone, landline, cell phone):

+1 (253) 215-8782 (Meeting ID: 971 5579 9598) +1 (346) 248 7799 (Meeting ID: 971 5579 9598)

---

**Pub Theology** -- Tuesdays at 6pm on Zoom

Join by Computer/Smartphone/Tablet: <https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/794159957>

Connect via Phone (home phone, landline, cell phone):

+1 (253) 215-8782 (Meeting ID: 794 159 957) +1 (346) 248-7799 (Meeting ID: 794 159 957)

---

### Advent Study

**Online:** Wednesdays from 6:00-7:15 pm on Zoom

**In Person:** Thursdays at 10:00-11:30 am in the Disciples/Shepherds Room

Join the Wednesday Evening Advent Study by Computer/Smartphone/Tablet:

<https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/276855082>

Join the Wednesday Evening Advent Study by Phone (dial either of these numbers):

+1 (253) 215-8782 (Meeting ID: 276 855 082) +1 (346) 248-7799 (Meeting ID: 276 855 082)

---

### Lord, Hear Our Prayers...

- For **Parker Dammel**, we give thanks that his tests show that everything is okay.
- For **Nancy Oberst and her family** as they grieve the death of her beloved mother.
- For Don Rodman's brother, **Chuck**, who is undergoing chemotherapy.
- For **Roseann Thornberry** who is home and continuing to recover from a stroke.
- For **Elizabeth Williams**, who has finally been able to come out of isolation after getting breakthrough COVID, and continues chemotherapy and radiation.
- For **Clara**, Debbie Arnold's mother, who had breast cancer surgery and is awaiting biopsy results.
- For **Jewel Nelson**, Lois Moller's friend, who is recovering from surgery on her knee cap.
- For **Dylan and Dean Robinson**
- For **Ralph and Eileen Kirby** who are recovering from breakthrough COVID-19.
- For **Mia**, Nola Lefler's granddaughter's friend, who is in a coma with liver failure.
- For **Martin Nelson**, Lois Moller's friend, recovering from serious burns.
- For **Richard Smith**, as he navigates health issues.
- For **Dennis Rainey**, who is having health difficulties.
- For **Lis McCrea-Jones**, who is recovering from knee surgery.
- For the **McCrea-Jones Family**.
- For **Joni Swartout**, recovering from recent illness.
- For **Gerald Bertram** as he continues cancer treatments.
- For **Karen Tauscher** as she continues cancer treatments.
- For **Avery**, Joan King's friend, who is battling cancer.
- For **Lynley**, the daughter of a childhood friend of Harriet Van Wyck.
- For **Ed Malcolm** as he manages pain in his esophagus, back, and hip.
- For **those impacted by bullying, racism, discrimination, and racist violence**, and we pray for **change in our nation**.
- For all who are sick, recovering, and grieving deaths from **COVID-19**. For those experiencing **loneliness and isolation**. For **hospitals, medical centers, and medical workers**.
- For our local church leaders, our District Superintendent Rev. Daniel Miranda, and our Bishop Rev. Elaine Stanovsky.