

## 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always,  
pray without ceasing,  
give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will  
of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Do not quench the Spirit.

Do not despise the words of prophets,  
but test everything; hold fast to what is good;  
abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely;  
and may your spirit and soul and  
body be kept sound and blameless at the  
coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

*“Rejoice!”*

*Joy is Our  
True Home*

ADVENT WORSHIP SERIES



**CHELTENHAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Third Sunday in Advent  
December 17, 2017

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## PRELUDE AND CANDLE LIGHTING

### CALL TO WORSHIP & LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Hymn: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," stanza 6, The United Methodist Hymnal, 211

**All: "O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thy justice here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight."**

Leader: "The LORD has done great things for us, and we are overjoyed. ... Let those who plant with tears reap the harvest with joyful shouts." (Psalm 126:3, 5 CEB)

**PEOPLE: God of Joy, you enter the wilderness of our world and proclaim that there is a way to reach home again.**

Leader: God of Joy, you break through clouds of despair and sorrow to bring good news to your people.

**PEOPLE: God of Joy, you send hope into the world in the form of a tiny baby.**

Leader: Let us affirm our joy together:

**All: We, God's people, sing songs of joy with the prophet, "I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God" (Isaiah 61:10, NRSV).**

Reader: On this third Sunday of Advent, we light this candle, knowing that joy is our true home.

**All: "Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel."**

\*HYMN - "Joy to the World" #246 UMH

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### JOYS, CONCERNS AND PASTORAL PRAYER

**SUNG RESPONSE:** "On Eagle's Wings #143 UMH

## OFFERING

\*DOXOLOGY- "Praise God from Whom All Blessings" #95 UMH

## ANTHEM

**SCRIPTURE READING:** I Thessalonians 5:16-24

\*HYMN - "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen" insert

**SERMON – "**

\*HYMN - "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" #251 UMH

## BENEDICTION

**POSTLUDE – "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" vs1 #224 UMH**

### PASSING THE PEACE

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Hymns can be found in the *TFWS – The Faith We Sing* and  
UMH- *United Methodist Hymnal*

\*Please stand as you are able.

*If you are visiting our church service today, we want you to know that we are glad you are here!*

*We invite everyone to join us down stairs after worship for a time of fellowship.*

