

*"Raise your voice... do not be afraid." — The Messenger*

**Advent Week 3, Dec 13, 2020**

**"I Believe in God: Ode to Joy"**

**I Believe Intro**

**Welcome**

**Prelude Alexander Seman**

**Crossing the Threshold**

**Advent Candle Lighting and Prayer**

**Missionary:** 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 are not sure of your presence, ignite the flame of joy within us,

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

**Pastor:** You are invited to light the first two blue candles from last Sunday and the pink candle, the candle of Joy at this time.

**Children's Time to Shine:** "This Little Light of Mine"

**Celebration in Music "Waymaker" Hovey Corbin**

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

**Message "I Believe in God: Ode to Joy" Pastor Mills**

**Litany of Belief \_\_\_\_\_ (person reading Leader part)**

*Leader:* I believe that we have sometimes been silent in the face of injustice AND

**People:** **I believe that we are capable of raising our voices and insisting on goodness for all.**

*Leader:* I believe that we have been afraid of feeling deeply, making our joy small AND

**People:** **I believe that the deep joy of community can always be present, even in hard times.**

*Leader:* I believe that sometimes we wonder if we can make a difference AND

**People:** **I believe that small acts of kindness and help do make a real difference.**

*Leader:* We believe, even when we are discouraged.

**People:** **We believe, that when we are discouraged, raising our voices for justice will offer us joy!**

**Missionary Moment/Offertory**

**Doxology [to the tune of "Give Thanks"] (David Edmonds)**

**Believe, with a joyful heart!  
Believe, and shine your light!  
Believe, because the song we sing is sung for all!**

**And now let the weak say, "I am strong;"  
let the poor say, "I am rich  
because of what our God has done for us."  
Believe!**

**Joys and Concerns**

**Pastoral and Lord's Prayer**

**Carol of Unity and Hope "Todo la Tierra" UMH 210 (David Edmonds)**

**Break-Outs**

**Benediction/Dismissal**

...

And so, my friends, like bells ringing out the news  
that God is ever-present with us,  
fill the night left by sadness with messages of joy.  
Go into your lives humming the tunes that keep that joy alive in you  
and that spur you on in your work of justice and reconciliation.  
Raise your voices and repeat after me...  
"do not be afraid!"  
**"do not be afraid!" Amen!**