

LITURGY OF WORD & SACRAMENT

DECEMBER 14, 2025

3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ADVENT: JOY



COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEBASTOPOL

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1000 Gravenstein Hwy North ☎ 707.823.2484 ☎ [www.uccseb.org](http://www.uccseb.org)

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PIANO PRELUDE     *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*     – Marty Haugen

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

HANDBELL INTROIT                      *Carol of the Bells*                      arr. Jason W. Krug

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY                      The SALT Project  
Introduction / Poem / Candle-lighting / Singing Bowl / Prayer

\* OPENING HYMN                      *Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates*                      #129, vv. 1-3

\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION                      Isaiah 35:6

One: God of majesty and glory, we are thirsty for your grace. You make a way for us in the wilderness where waters break forth in the desert.

Many: **And still we wander. We hide our eyes from your presence. We do not listen to your word. We are lifeless when we ought to dance, and speechless when we ought to sing...** (silent prayer)

\* ASSURANCE OF GRACE                      Isaiah 35:10

\* PASSING THE JOY                      The Joy of Christ be with you: **And also with you.**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

**Poppy Anne, Iris Mae & Rowan Nancy Wright**

Parents: Molly Hayward & Devon Wright

BAPTISMAL PRAYER                      ending with *The Lord's Prayer*

**Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kin'dom come.  
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kin'dom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

\* HYMN                      *Joy to the World*                      #143

GOSPEL READING                      *Matthew 11: 2 – 11*                      Pew Bible, NT, p. 11

SERMON                      *Tell What You Hear and See*                      Pastor Benjamin

PIANO INTERLUDE *Antioch* – G.F. Händel

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING Steve Reid

HANDBELL OFFERTORY *The Babe, the Son of Mary* arr. Jason W. Krug

\* DOXOLOGY Tune: *Morning Song*

**My soul gives glory to my God, my heart pours out its praise.  
God lifted up my lowliness in many marvelous ways.**

**My God has done great things for me, yes, holy is God's name.  
All people will declare me blessed, and blessings they shall claim.**

\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION Psalm 145:5–10

**One:** Thanks be to you, O God, maker of heaven and earth, giver of justice, lover of righteousness, hope of the afflicted, and friend of the poor.

**Many:** Take and use these gifts to further your purpose in the world, and to fulfill the promise of the world to come. In Christ, we pray. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE O Come: O Come, Emmanuel

\* CLOSING HYMN *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent* #124, vv. 1, 2 & 4

\* BENEDICTION

PIANO POSTLUDE *Picardy* – French carol

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*Following worship, all are invited to Kinship Hour in the Bell Tower Courtyard and, when the bell rings, to Faith Formation Hour offerings.*



## WORSHIP LEADERS

Ushers Marlene Hooper (Lead)  
Jimmy Hooper & Peggy Porter  
Piano J. Althea  
Liturgists Steve Reid & Tirza Dawn  
Preacher Rev. Benjamin Broadbent  
Worship Music Handbell Ensemble  
Handbell Director & Organist Karna Roa  
Tech Team Eliana Curtis & Tamar Knuth  
Chancel Flowers Andrea Card

## STAFF TEAM

Lead Minister Rev. Dr. Benjamin Broadbent  
Associate Minister Open  
Congregational Administrator Joy Richards  
Faith Formation Coordinator Tirza Dawn  
Choral Director Andy DelMonte  
Keyboardist J. Althea  
Handbell Director Karna Roa  
Bookkeeper Deanna Euritt  
Custodian Paul Loudon



Our mission is to worship God and share the love of Jesus Christ, teaching the message of Jesus to all ages and putting our faith into action.



An Open & Affirming congregation in the United Church of Christ, we welcome and affirm people of every religious background, family composition, sexual orientation, physical and mental ability, ethnicity, age, gender identity and expression.



A Sanctuary congregation in the Sonoma County Sanctuary Coalition.



Cover Image: "He puts roses in my sky," Edie Mae Herrel