

First Reformed Church of Cary

Third Sunday in Advent

December 11, 2016

Dan Casey, Guest Speaker
Dr. Loñieta Cornwall, Music Director

The Approach to God

Prelude

"Veni Immanuel"

L. Cornwall, Piano

Congregational Concerns

Votum (*Our Help is in the name of the Lord who made the heaven and the earth.*)

Choral Introit

Invitation to Worship

***Hymn of Praise #21** *"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"*

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Joel 2:12-13

"Even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning." Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity.

Hymn #310

"Take My Life and Let It Be"

Reception of Gifts & Offerings

Ministry of Music *“I’ve got the joy, joy, joy, joy, down in my heart. Down in my heart, down in my heart. I’ve got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart. Down in my heart to stay. *And I’m so happy, so very happy. I have the love of Jesus down in my heart, down in my heart. (repeat). Love of Jesus……* Peace that passes understanding……* I know the devil doesn’t like it but it’s down in my heart……*”*

***Doxology**

***Offertory Prayer**

The Word of God

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture:

Isaiah 35:1-10

The Ransomed Shall Return

35 The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;

2 it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.

3 Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

4 Say to those who have an anxious heart,
“Be strong; fear not!

Behold, your God
will come with vengeance,
with the recompense of God.
He will come and save you.”

5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

6 then shall the lame man leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

For waters break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

7 the burning sand shall become a pool,

