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Third Sunday of Advent | December 17, 2023

**Invitation**

**To A**

**Miracle**

By Joseph M. Martin

A Christmas Cantata

Featuring:

The Chancel Choir

AOT Concert Choir

And Guest Musicians

\*Please stand as you are able

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Trinity Chimes**

**Prelude**  *Lo, How a Rose*

arr. C. Moklebust

The Christ Church Ringers

**\*Call to Worship**: *Isaiah 61:1-2a*

One: The spirit of the Lord God is upon me because he has anointed me;

**All: he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted,**

One: to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners,

**All: To proclaim the year of the Lord's favor!  So let us once more proclaim the miracle of Emmanuel, God born among us.**

\*Advent Candle Lighting:

Reader 1: The time is nearly here...

Reader 2: All creation stands ready

Reader 1: For God to fulfill all that has been foretold.

Reader 2: So we stand ready, on the edge of a miracle

*Lighting of the Advent Candles of Hope, Peace, and Joy*

**All: To see the light of Hope burst once more into the darkness, to declare a time of peace that surpasses understanding, to shout with joy for the great works God has done!  Come among us once more God, we are waiting, we are ready!**

**Advent Hymn:** 209*Blessed Be the God of Israel*

MERLE’S TUNE

On prisoners of darkness, the sun begins to rise,

the drawing of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes,

to guide the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace;

O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!

**Choir Response***A Processional of Hope*

**Faith**  Isaiah 52:7-9

**Choir Response***Joy Arising!*

**Hope** Isaiah 60:1-3

**Choir Response***Your Light has Come*!

**Peace** Luke 1:26-33

*Ushers will come forward to receive our offering*

**Offertory***My Soul Rejoices in the Lord*

**Love** Luke 2:4-7

**Choir Response** *A Celtic Cradle Carol*

**Joy** Luke 2:8-14

**Choir Response***Alleluia! Christ is Born!*

**Light** John 1:1-5, 9-12

**Choir Response***Would I miss the Miracle?*

**Life**

**Choir Response***A Gloria Gathering*

\*Benediction

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Postlude *Angels We Have Heard on High*

arr. S. Tucker

The Christ Church Ringers

Given in Memory of Larry Tilton by his family

Thank you to all of the volunteers and staff who made this service possible!

Liturgist: Gretchen Lofgren and Robert Ursery

Stephen Minister: Michael Edwards

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“Invitation to a Miracle”

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If you have any questions, please call the office: 520.327.1116 or

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