

**Sermon on the Mount Mennonite Church  
Advent 3: Dare To Imagine God's Song!  
Sunday, Dec. 12, 2021**

**Prelude:** "Rejoice, Rejoice, the Savior Comes" CD

**Lighting the Peace Lamp**

**Focus Statement:** Singing together causes great joy and jubilation. But, even more, our hearts exult and swell as we imagine God Singing over us.

**Theme Song:** "Solemn Stillness, Weary Streets" VT 276

**Call to Worship**

*(adapted from Zephaniah 3:14-20; Philippians 4:4-7)*

**Leader:** Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say: Rejoice!

**People:** **Shout for joy, rejoice with all your heart!**

**Leader:** God sings over you. Fear not, for God is in your midst.

**People:** **Shout for joy, rejoice with all your heart!**

**Leader:** Sing praises to God—shout aloud and sing for joy.

**People:** **God is in our midst.**

**Leader:** We listen.

**People:** **We strain to grasp the sound of God's song.**

**Candle Litany**

**Leader:** We light a candle of joy.

And we imagine:

**People:** **Jubilation! Rejoicing! Do not fear!**

**Leader:** We light the candle and join in God's song, singing loudly, singing fiercely, singing together.

**People:** **Imagine that . . . we are God's wonders, blessed wonders.**

**Hymn:** "Hope is a Candle" VT 211 (Verses 1,2,4)

**Confession and Assurance**

Even our wildest imaginations cannot grasp the immense beauty of God. This is a true confession. We are small, God is bigger. We will never fully know, but we are fully known. We catch glimpses of God's magnificence, and we accept that it is only that, a glimpse. God invites us to accept our smallness—while we join the awesome song of God's joy.

Today, instead of the usual words of confession, we invite the church to be immersed and "covered" in song.

Over our heads there is music. As we await the birth of Jesus, we do well to joyfully give ourselves to the One who imagines the divine in the form of a child.

Dare to imagine!

**Hymn** "Over My Head" VT 594

**Scripture:** Zephaniah 3:14-20;  
Isaiah 12:2-6;  
Philippians 4:4-7;  
Luke 3:7-18

**Message:** "Joy"

**Hymn:** "Joy to the World"  
**Offering**

**VT 240**

**Sharing and Prayer Concerns**  
**Congregational Prayer**

**Announcements**

**Benediction:** "Sing and sing"

**VT 883**

**Symbol of Joy**

**Hymn:** "You Shall Go Out with Joy"

**VT 847**