



Open Hearts,  
Open Minds,  
Open Doors...

The people of the  
United Methodist  
Church

# Ocean Shores United Methodist Church



# JOY

Psalm 126

**“Whoever you are, and wherever you may be on your journey of faith, you are loved by God and welcome here.”**

**December 17, 2023 - 10:30 am**  
**Gaudete Sunday**  
**“Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors”**

**Welcome**

Celebration of Birthdays/Anniversaries

**Prelude**            The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came

**\*Call to Worship** (Isaiah 61, 1 Thessalonians 5)

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord ALWAYS! Give thanks in all circumstances.

All: I praise God with my heart, my mind, my soul, my body.

Leader: For God has clothed us with the garments of salvation. God has covered us with the robe of righteousness, and draped us with the mantle of praise.

All: The Lord has raised me up! I will rejoice in him forever! Amen!

**\*Hymn**            Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates pg. 213

**Advent Liturgy**

We lit the first candle of Advent for Hope.

We lit the second candle of Advent for Love.

We light the third candle of Advent for Joy.

**Hymn**            Advent Song FWS 2090 Verse 2

**Psalm of the Day** (responsive)            Psalm 126 pg. 847

**Scripture**            John 1:1-8

**Meditation**            “The Light at the End of the Tunnel”

**Hymn** I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light pg. 206

**The Prayers of the People** Our Joys and Concerns

**Prayer**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Invitation To Offering**

Leader: Even in difficult times, we remember that God has done great things for us. We choose to live our lives in Joy, counting on the goodness of God in every circumstance. We joyfully and cheerfully share our gifts strengthening the ministry of this church as we seek together to bring the light of Joy into our world. Let us present our tithes and offerings.

**The Offertory** Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming

**\*Doxology** Advent Doxology (see reverse)

**The Prayer of Dedication** (unison)

Lord, on the Eve of Jesus' birth, help me to be grateful for what I have, to remember that I don't *need* most of what I *want*, and to discover that true joy is found in simplicity and generosity. Amen

**Announcements**

**The Sending Song** Star Child FWS pg. 2095

**\*Benediction and Blessing**

**Postlude** People, Look East

**\* Please stand**

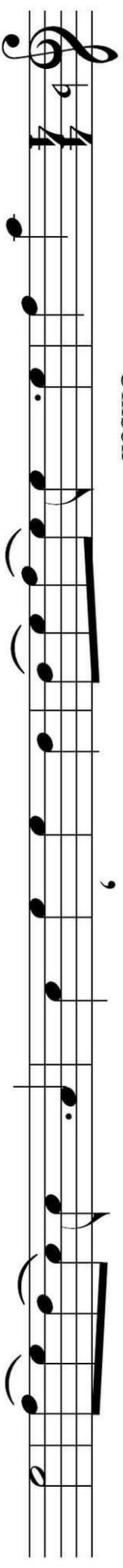
# Advent Doxology

(Once in Royal David's City)

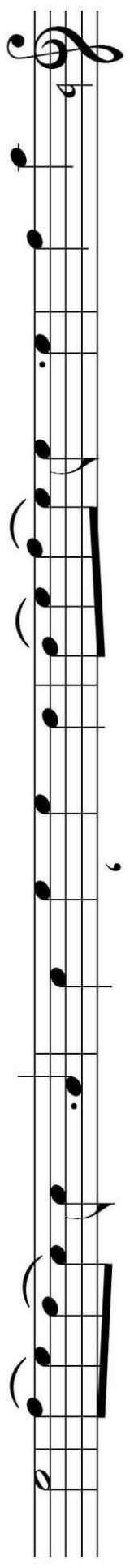
R. G. Huff

IRBY  
Henry J. Gauntlett

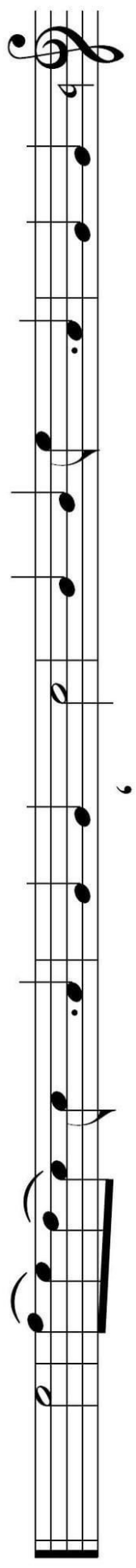
Unison



Praise to God, the One who made us. Praise to Christ, the soon - born Son.  
the new\* - born



Praise the Spir - it, ev - er - with us. Praise the God - head, Three in - One.



Clear a path! Pre - pare the way! Ad - vent leads to Christ - mas Day!

© 2022 WorshipRx

Permission Granted for Use in Worship

\* - for use on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day