

**Third Sunday of Advent  
December 12, 2021 Worship Bulletin**

**Gathering for God's Word**

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Time of Silence & Ringing of the Bell

\*Advent Introit

"Come Light Our Hearts"

For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait 2x  
Truly our hope is in You 2x

O joy above all other joys  
In you we find more than enough  
We come as we are, O heal and restore  
Come Light our hearts.

For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait 2x  
Truly our hope is in You 2x

O Lord of life, you give us joy,  
Your radiance shines on all who look  
To you in the dark, Emmanuel come,  
Come light our hearts

Lighting the Candle of Joy

[Reading based on Isaiah 12:2-6]

**People: God of joy, may your Spirit renew in us the joy of our salvation. Lead us to share this joy with those around us. The light of this joy shines in a world full of darkness, so that all may see the path to the deep well of salvation. So we proclaim the joyous name of Jesus today! In Jesus 'name we pray, amen.**

**Preparing for God's Word**

Christmas Carols Requests

## Call To Confession

Leader: Malachi 4: 1 reminds us of the importance of confession. For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. Let us confess our sin before God and seek God's mercy.

## Prayer of Confession

**All: Loving God, when the prophets said, "Look!" They were excited because The One you had promised and they had been waiting for was on the way! But too often we confess that we do not look for your divine Savior the same way. Too often, we try to make "saviors" of ourselves and others around us. We do not place enough of our trust in you either, O God. Instead we put our faith in our own efforts and others around us. Lord, forgive our arrogance, we pray. Forgive our lack of faith. Forgive us for all the times we walk through trials of our own making. We ask that you would refine us ... cleanse us ... make us fit for the work you have called us according to your purpose. Lord, open our eyes today to see the joy of our salvation in the One you sent and are sending again to be our Redeemer. Amen.**

## Assurance of Pardon

[based on Isaiah 1:18]

Leader: Hear the Good News! Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

**People: In the name of Jesus Christ, our sins have been redeemed. Thanks be to God! And since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us also forgive one another.**

## Hearing God's Word

### Children's Message

Ages 12 and under gather up front as congregation sings "Jesus Loves Me." After the Children's Message, the children may return to sit with their families.

### \*Hymn of Preparation

#143, "Angels from the Realm of Glory," vs. 1 & 4

Angels from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
You who sang creation's story  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth.

Refrain:  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

All creation, join in praising  
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,  
Evermore your voices raising  
To th'eternal Three in One.

## Prayer of Illumination

### New Testament Reading: Matthew 1: 18-25

18 This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. 19 Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" — which means, "God with us."

24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. 25 But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

## Sermon

"Fear Not... The Fear of A Ruined Reputation"

## **Responding to God's Word**

### Offering

Offertory

Choral Anthem- While Shepherds Watched their Flocks," Chamber Singers

\*Response

#606, "Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

\*Prayer of Dedication

## Prayers of the People

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right for us to give thanks and praise.**

[particular prayers]

Leader: Hear our prayer, Lord

**People: Come, Immanuel, and fill our lives.**

### The Lord's Prayer

**All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### \*Hymn of Response

#112, "On Christmas Night All Christians Sing," vs. 1, 2, & 4

On Christmas night all Christians sing  
to hear the news the angels bring;  
on Christmas night all Christians sing  
to hear the news the angels bring:  
news of great joy, news of great mirth,  
news of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should we on earth be sad  
since our Redeemer made us glad;  
then why should we on earth be sad  
since our Redeemer made us glad  
when from our sin he set us free,  
all for to gain our liberty?

All out of darkness we have light,  
which made the angels sing this night;  
all out of darkness we have light  
which made the angels sing this night:  
'Glory to God, in highest heaven  
Peace on earth and goodwill. Amen!

### \*Benediction

**\*Benediction Response**

#155, "Raise a Song of Gladness"

Raise a song of gladness, peoples of the earth.

Christ has come, bringing peace, joy to ev'ry heart.

Alleluia, alleluia, joy to ev'ry heart!

Alleluia, alleluia, joy to ev'ry heart!

**\*Postlude**

**\*Please Stand if Able**