

**3rd Sunday of Advent
December 11, 2022 Worship Bulletin**

Gathering for God's Word

Prelude

*Welcome & Passing the Peace of Christ

*Song of Praise

#106, "Prepare the Way, O Zion," vs. 1, 3

Prepare the way, O Zion; your Christ is drawing near!

Let ev'ry hill and valley a level way appear.

Greet One who comes in glory, fore told in sacred story.

Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

He brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heav'n above.

His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.

Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.

Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace.

And tidings of salvation proclaim in ev'ry place.

All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing.

Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

Text: Frans Mikael Franzen, 1812; re. 1819; trans. Augustus Nelson, 1958
adap. Charles P. Price, 1980, alt.

Music: Then Svenska Psalmboken, 1697; arr. American Lutheran Hymnal, 1930

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Announcements

Time of Silence & Ringing of the Bell

Call to Worship

[based on Isaiah 60: 1-3]

Leader: Let us arise! Shine! Our light has come;

People: The Lord's glory has shone upon us.

Leader: Though darkness covers the earth and gloom the nations, the Lord will shine upon us; God's glory will appear over you.

People: Nations will come to your light and kings to your dawning radiance.

Leader: Let us worship our wonderful Lord.

*Christmas Carol Sing

Prayer of Confession

[time of silence for private confession].

All: Heavenly Father, we search for your light and know that it is found in Christ. The Magi sought Christ simply to worship him, while Herod sought him to appease his jealous anger. Lord, we confess that our motives in seeking Jesus are not always pure. Often we do not simply come to worship: we come to Christ, asking his benefits of reassurance, health, and wealth; asking him to fulfill the hundred petitions for not-so-important requests that we heap before him. The Magi sought first the kingdom. Help us, God, to follow their example more often, worshipping Christ out of love, content to be in your presence, and laying our gifts before you. Then may we journey, trusting that your goodness and light will accompany us all the days of our life. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

[based on John 1: 9, 12]

Leader: Hear the Good News! The true light that gives light to everyone has come into the world.

People: To all who have received Christ, to those who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

Leader: Praise God!

Children's Message & Lighting the Advent Candle

Ages 12 and under gather up front as congregation sings, #115, "Away in a Manger."
After the Advent Candle Lighting, the children may return to sit with their families.

Advent Liturgy

Readings: From Dot Harbin and caregiver Peggy

Leader: Christ is the light for all people.

Children: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it.

Leader: Let us Pray...

Congregational Prayer: Dear God, with joy we acknowledge your care and love for us. With joy we acknowledge that our help is in you, the Maker of heaven and earth. Through faith in Christ, grant us solid joy that lasts long beyond this Christmas season and that equips us to face all the challenges of life. Amen.

Hearing God's Word

*Hymn of Preparation

#151, "We Three Kings," vs. 1-4

We three kings of Orient are;
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,

Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of light,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
Gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign.

Frankincense to offer have I;
Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, gladly raising,
Worshiping God Most High

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb

Text & Music: John Henry Hopkins, Jr., 1857, alt.
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Prayer of Illumination

New Testament Reading: Matthew 2: 7- 12

7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. 8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.

10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him.

Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Sermon

"Wise Men... Why Will You Give"

Responding to God's Word

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.

Offering

Offertory

Anthem

"God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen/We Three Kings," Galbraith Clan

*Response

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

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise Him, all creatures here below

Praise Him above the Heavenly host

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost

Amen

Text: Thomas Ken, 1695, 1709

Music: Genevan Psalter, 1551

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*Prayer of Dedication

Hymn of Response

#144, "In the Bleak Midwinter," vs 1, 4

In the bleak midwinter

Frosty wind made moan,

Earth stood hard as iron,

Water like a stone:

Snow had fallen,

Snow on snow, snow on snow,

In the bleak midwinter,

Long ago.

What can I give him,

Poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd,

I would bring a lamb,

If I were a wise man

I would do my part,
Yet what I can I give him,
Give my heart.

Text: Christina Rossetti, c. 1872, alt
Music: Gustav Holst, 1906
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***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!

Text: Taize Community, 1978
Music: Jacques Berthier 1978
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***Postlude**

***Please Stand if Able**