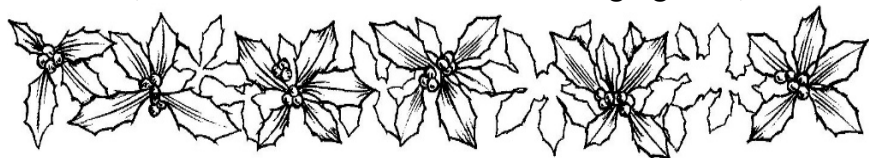


ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday December 12, 2021 | 3rd Sunday of Advent | 9:00 AM
(+ = stand if able; L = Leader / **C** = Congregation)



PRELUDE Diane Dangerfield

WELCOMING WORD *Christ's presence in our midst is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.*

+HYMN #258 O Come, O Come Emmanuel (vs 1, 3, 5, 6)

CANDLE LIGHTING – The Candle of Joy

L: I will greatly rejoice in the Lord!

C: My whole being shall exult in my God! Amen.

L: The Prince of Peace is about to be born! The Kingdom of God is at hand!

C: God has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor

L: Last week we lit the candles of hope and peace, today we light the candle of joy as we await the coming of Jesus and look to find the Prince of Peace in each face we see. (Light three candles) Let us pray,

ALL: Let us share in your joy this day, and throughout this season. Lighten our hearts, gladden our smiles, and let our words and actions radiate the joy of Jesus each day. Amen.

+HYMN: #267 - Joy to the World (vs. 1, 2)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things.

C: Amen.

L: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept for reflection

L: God for whom we wait,

C: in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.

L: God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

C: Amen.

Congregational Song (Led by Praise Team) *Jesus Messiah*

GREETING

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

C: And also, with you.

+ KYRIE pg. 138

+ HYMN OF PRAISE pg. 139 "Glory to God in the highest..."

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God,
C: and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Congregational Song:(Led by Praise Team) *Living Hope*

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-20

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! ¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. ¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. ¹⁷The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing¹⁸as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. ⁹I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. ²⁰At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

+ACCLAMATION (pg. 142)

(sing) Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

L: The Gospel according to Luke, Chapter 3

C: Glory to you, O Lord

GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18

⁷John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”¹⁰And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” ¹¹In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” ¹³He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” ¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

+L: The Gospel of the Lord

+C: Praise to you, O Christ

CHOIR ANTHEM – “How Far Is It to Bethlehem?”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

MESSAGE Pastor John Twiton

+Hymn #256 Comfort, Comfort Now My People

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

+ APOSTLES’ CREED (pg. 105)

BENEVOLENCE PRESENTATION Madison Area Jail Ministry

OFFERING (Praise Team) *The Prayer*

OFFERTORY #186 “Create in me....”

THE PRAYERS (pg. 143)

(As the pastor concludes each petition with the words:

“Lord in your mercy...” The people respond: **Hear our prayer.**)

+ THE LORD’S PRAYER (pg. 145) (right hand column)

SENDING

COMMUNITY WORD

+BLESSING

L: May the blessing of God our creator, the love of Jesus Christ our redeemer, and the presence of the Holy Spirit the comforter, surround you and sustain you until we gather again.

C: **Amen.**

+HYMN #290 Go Tell It on the Mountain

+DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 12, 2021

SHARE: What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

READ: Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding:

Monday, Isaiah 11:1-9, The Peaceful Kingdom

Tuesday, Numbers 16:20-35, Revolt against Moses

Wednesday, Luke 7:35-35, John the Baptist & Jesus

Thursday, Psalm 80:1-7, Prayer for Restoration

Friday, Hebrews 10:32-39, Endurance as disciples

Saturday, Isaiah 66:7-11, Vindication of Zion

TALK: Consider some of these ideas:

“He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”

–*Luke 3:16b*

John the Baptist heralds the mighty one who is coming. John teaches that preparation for God’s reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.

- How, where or in whom do you see God in your midst?
- What do you give thanks for this day?
- Is it even possible to rejoice in the midst of suffering and worry? If so, how do you?
- “What then shall we do?” How are you responding to this Advent question?

PRAY: Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

BLESS: The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

