



# THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 11, 2022

## GATHERING

**PRAYER FOR MEDITATION:** *Holy God, your prophets have long spoken of the one who would come to save us. Now the promise is fulfilled; now your kingdom has come near. Send us as messengers of your way, to go and tell all the world of the wonders we have seen and the good news we have heard; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## RINGING OF THE CHIMES

**OPENING SENTENCES** (*Luke 1:46-27, 49*)

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: My soul magnifies the Lord;

**ALL:** *my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.*

One: The Mighty One has done great things.

**ALL:** *Holy is God's name.*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PRELUDE**

*Chorale Prelude on WACHET AUF*

Bach

Dr. Terry McRoberts

**CHORAL INTROIT**

*Rejoice and Sing*

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Chancel Choir

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

*Elder Diane Sklensky, Annika Jerge*

**RESPONSE** (*all singing, refrain only from Hymn: 88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*)

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN: 132** *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

IN DULCI JUBILO

## PRAISE GOD AND CONFESS OUR SINS

**CALL TO CONFESSION** (*Isaiah 35:1,4*)

Rev. John White

Let the desert rejoice, and let the dry land be glad, for God has come to save us. Let us confess our sin.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Rev. John White

*Gracious God, our doubt and despair lead us to low and long-suffering places. Our eyes downcast, we find nothing for which to give thanks, we find no reason to rejoice. Yet, you call us to resist the overwhelming forces that drag us down. You call us to rejoice in a* (continued)

*babe about to be born. You call us to lift our eyes in hopeful anticipation of your kingdom to come. Forgive us. Help us. Save us. Amen.*

## SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE

### \*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*Rev. John White*

One: Now return to the Lord with joy and gladness. Sing a song of redemption! Let sorrow and sighing be no more. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

*ALL: Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen.*

### \*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: 447 *We Are Forgiven*

WE ARE FORGIVEN

*We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.*

*We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.*

### \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*Rev. John White*

One: The peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

*ALL: And also with you.*

## THE WORD

### ACT OF PRAISE

*People Look East*  
Chancel Choir

French folk melody

### TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

*Rev. John White*

### MINUTE FOR MISSION: CHRISTMAS GIVING

*Elder Stacey McAdams*

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Rev. John White*

### \*HYMN: 129 *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

ES IST EIN' ROS'

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

*Rev. John White*

### OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Isaiah 35:1-10 (pg. 638)*

*Rev. John White*

One: This is the word of God for the people of God. *ALL: Thanks be to God.*

### NEW TESTAMENT READING

*Matthew 11:2-11 (pg. 198-199)*

*Rev. Courtney Bowen*

One: This is the word of God. The grass withers and the flower fades, but the word of the Lord endures forever. *ALL: Thanks be to God.*

### SERMON

*The One Who is to Come*

*Rev. Courtney Bowen*

## RESPONSE

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(from A Brief Statement of Faith)*

*Rev. John White*

*We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.*

*Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.*

*With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

*(At this time, please find the red friendship pad located toward the center aisle on each pew, sign it, pass it down your row and back again, taking note of those who worship with you.)*

## OFFERING

*Rev. John White*

## OFFERTORY

*Chorale Prelude on NUN KOMM' DER HEIDEN HEILAND*

*Buxtehude*

*Dr. Terry McRoberts*

*\*Doxology (Tune: 606)*

*OLD HUNDREDTH*

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;*

*Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*\*Dedicatory Prayer*

*Rev. Courtney Bowen*

## SENDING

**\*HYMN: 100** *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout*

*STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN*

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

*Rev. Courtney Bowen*

## CHORAL BENEDICTION

*Come, Lord Jesus*

*Page*

*Chancel Choir*

*(We request that you remain seated until after the Postlude and ask that you use the Postlude as a time to reflect upon the scripture that was read in today's service.)*

## POSTLUDE

*March from Richard III*

*Walton*

*Dr. Terry McRoberts*