

Growing Together through Faith, Love, and Fellowship.

Third Sunday in Advent

December 17, 2023

The asterisk () indicates to please rise in body or spirit.*

Silent Prayer of Preparation

*Merciful God, you come into our midst longing for communion with us, becoming one of us. Break our resistance to life with you, show us the path toward just relations, and bring us into your unimaginable peace. In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.*

Gathering Music

The Gathering of God's People

Prelude - a time to prayerfully prepare oneself for worship

“Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying”

arr. Gilbert M. Martin

Welcome and Announcements

Minute for Mission

Christmas Joy Offering

Rhonda Miller

Introit “Sing Out, My Soul”

Jacques Berthier, 1978

Sing out, my soul.

Sing out and glorify the Lord who sets us free.

Sing out, my soul.

Sing out and glorify the Lord God!

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Angel Family

Reader 1: We light the first candle as a symbol of the hope we have in the promise of the Lord's coming.

Reader 2: We light the second candle as the symbol of peace for the purity of heart only God can bring.

Reader 3: We light the third candle as a symbol of the joy to be found in your kingdom on earth.

(lighting of the candles)

Reader 4: For the Lord elevates the lowly, releases the captive, and brings sight to the blind. We rejoice in his justice and mercy, faithful to all generations.

People: Come, Lord Jesus, come!

***Hymn**

“Joy to the World”

#134

The Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession** *(in unison)*

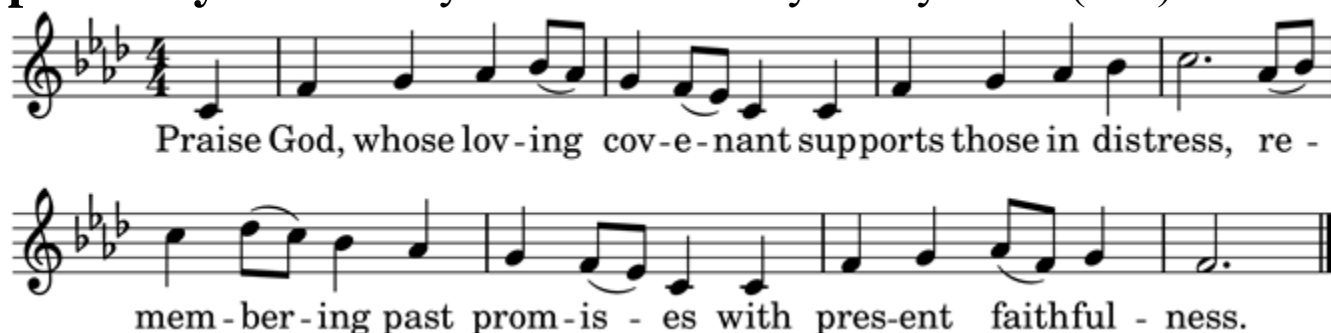
Lord, we live in a time of darkness, and we are scared. We forget to trust that you are the light of the world. Forgive us. We despair at the economy, and forget to trust in you. We follow leaders who put on your mask, not realizing that they are not you and only out for themselves. We feel abandoned by you. Help us to remember that you are always with us. Help us, Lord, to trust that you will make everything right again. Amen. (Silent prayer of confession.)

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Response Hymn**

“My Soul Gives Glory to My God” (v. 5)

#99



Praise God, whose lov-ing cov-e-nant supports those in distress, re -
mem-ber-ing past prom-is - es with pres-ent faith-ful - ness.

Text: Miriam Therese Winter, 1979; rev. 1987
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Ministry of the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Children's Sermon

First Scripture Reading

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Choir Anthem "An Advent Prayer"

Allen Pote, 1984

Come holy Jesus, come to free us from our sin.
Come holy Jesus, and make us pure within.
Inspire each heart with illumined surprise,
Enkindle a flame anew.
Increase our faith and strengthen our lives,
Show us the joy of living life in you.

Second Scripture Reading

Mark 13:24-37

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "Through an Apocalyptic Lens" Rev. Désirée M. Youngblood

The Response to the Word

*Affirmation of Faith

The Scots Confession (3.11)

We do not doubt but that the selfsame body which was born of the virgin, was crucified, dead, and buried, and which did rise again, did ascend into the heavens, for the accomplishment of all things, where in our name and for our comfort he has received all power in heaven and earth, where he sits at the right hand of the Father, having received his kingdom, the only advocate and mediator for us. Which glory, honor, and prerogative, he alone amongst the brethren shall possess till all his enemies are made his footstool, as we undoubtedly believe they shall be in the Last Judgment. We believe that the same Lord Jesus shall visibly return for this Last Judgment as he was seen to ascend. And then, we firmly believe, the time of refreshing and restitution of all things shall come, so that those who from the beginning have suffered violence, injury, and wrong, for righteousness' sake, shall inherit that blessed immortality promised them from the beginning.

*Hymn

"The Church's One Foundation"

#321

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

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; and 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.

Invitation to Offering

*Response

“Savior of the Nations, Come” (v. 4)

#102

Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, virgin's son, in - carnate Word!

To the ho - ly Trin - i - ty praise we sing e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: Attr. Ambrose of Milan, 4th cent.; German para. Martin Luther, 1523;
English trans. stanza 4, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, 2006 © 2006 Augsburg Fortress
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*Prayer of Dedication

The Sending of God's People

*Closing Hymn “For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits”

#89

*Charge and Blessing

*Congregational Response “Advent Song”

We're waiting for the day, we're waiting for the day, we're waiting for the

day for the ba-by to be born. Jesus is that ba-by boy, born on Christmas

Day. Je-sus is that ba-by boy born on Christmas Day. Yea!

Words and Music: Thomas & Joyce Lloyd

*Postlude

“Arise, Your Light Has Come”

arr. Jacob B. Weber

Pastors: Rev. Désirée M. Youngblood
Dr. Mark A. Johnson

Music Director: Thomas Lloyd
Organist: Carol Welk

Liturgist: Joyce Lloyd

Joyce Lloyd and her husband, Tom, moved from Pittsburgh, PA, to London, OH, in 1974. They had just graduated from college and were newlyweds. Joyce and Tom were anxious to start their new life together and to start new jobs. London turned out to be a very welcoming town. They were able to find new friends and a new church family.

Joyce has a twin sister, an older sister, and an older brother, who live across the US, giving them a chance to visit some beautiful cities. Joyce is fortunate to have her brother-in-law, John, and sister-in-law, Margaret, living nearby.

Retirement is the best job Joyce has ever had, allowing her to enjoy more time with Tom, their dog, Sasha, and their cat, Meow Mix. Even in retirement there never seems to be enough time to be involved in as many volunteer projects as she would like. Joyce enjoys her time with friends, and being outside walking the dog or working in the yard. Goal in life: “Make me an instrument of your peace.”