

ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

December 11, 2022

3rd Sunday of Advent

PREPARATION, PROMISES, AND PRAISE

(We invite you to quiet yourself in preparation for the worship of God when you hear the prelude music.)

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

WELCOME AND INVITATION TO SHARE OUR LIFE IN CHRIST

Prelude "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People" arr. Manz

Call to Worship The Rev. Robert Smith

Leader: Our souls magnify the Lord!

People: Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!

Leader: The mighty One has done great things for us!

People: Holy is God's name!

Leader: Let us worship God.

People: For God is our Maker and our Redeemer; from generation to generation God gives mercy.

—based on Luke 1:46-50

*Hymn "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" No. 193

*Prayer of Adoration

*Prayer of Confession (unison)

God of salvation, in Christ you have done great things—our hearts are filled with joy. By your power you lifted us out of the wasteland of sin and brought us with joy and laughter into your kingdom. Salvation is your gift to us. But we confess that often we try to replace your gift with our own efforts. We try to complete what is already perfect; we try to add to what is already full; we try to earn what we already have. Forgive us for our foolishness. Help us to focus on your grace. Help us to live grateful lives in return. For Jesus' sake alone, Amen.

—based on Psalm 126

*Assurance of Pardon

Beloved, hear the Good News! You did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ. Friends, believe the Good News. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

—Romans 8:15-17

*Gloria Patri No. 579

(Let the children come forward during the singing of the Gloria.)

Lighting of the Advent Candle Rick & Diana Harvey

LISTENING TO THE WORD OF GOD

Children's Time The Rev. Robert Smith

Children's Worship is provided for ages 4–4th grade in Room 205. Parents, please escort your children to this room.

*Hymn of Preparation "Watchman, Tell Us of the Night" HS No. 7

(The congregation may come forward to place their 2¢-A-Meal offering in the container at the front of the Sanctuary)

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 35 Page 709

Leader: This is the word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Anthem "Every Valley" Beck

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 11:2-11 Page 965

Sermon "Take No Offense" The Rev. Robert Smith

RESPONSE IN DEDICATION AND OBEDIENCE

Prayers of the People of God and Our Lord's Prayer

*Affirmation of Faith "The Apostles' Creed" Page 742

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen

The Offering of Ourselves to God and to One Another

Our Greetings

Offertory "Once He Came in Blessing" arr. Held

*"The Doxology" No. 731

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn "Hail to the Lord's Anointed" No. 311

Advent Amen "Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, oh Israel. Amen!"

Postlude "Hark, the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes" arr. Held

*The Congregation is asked to stand, as you are able.

CALENDAR

Today, 12/11 - Sunday School, 9:00 am; Worship, 10:30 am; Congregational Mtg., 11:45 am
Monday, 12/12 - Church office closed on Mondays; Sermon Apps, 7:00 pm
Tuesday, 12/13 - Women in Ministry (WiM), 11:00 am; Women in Ministry Lunch, 12:00 pm; Men's ZOOM Bible Study, 12:00 pm; Adult Bible Study (ABS), 5:15 pm; Chancel Choir, 6:30 pm
Wednesday, 12/14 - Youth Group, 6:00 pm; First Kids, 6:00 pm; Carillonners, 7:00 pm
Thursday, 12/15 - Men's Breakfast, 7:00 am; Staff Mtg., 10:00 am; Men's Bible Study, 2:30 pm
Friday, 12/16 - Prayer Mtg., 9:30 am

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REMINDERS

Elders: Andy Fuller, Lew Richardson
Sound System: Kaye Wilkerson, Scott Rice, Rea Brown
Greeters Ramp Room (8:50-9:00 & 10:00-10:30): Dec. 11 - CP & Carol Lockhart; Dec. 18 - Don & Wendy Andree; Dec. 25 - Nancy Poore
Greeters Narthex (10:00-10:30): Dec. 11 - Barry & Anne Webb; Dec. 18 - Tom & Helen Thompson; Dec. 25 - Jeff & Pat Povtak
Deacons on Duty: Dec. 11 - Melanie Rice, Marcia Ridenhour; Dec. 18 - Carolyn Keyes, Sidney Keyes; Dec. 25 - Debbie Bennett, Mary Thornhill
Acolytes: Dec. 11 - Elizabeth Rice; Dec. 18 - Charlotte Bain
Children's Worship:
Dec. 11 - Advent 3, The Shepherds Show the Way to Bethlehem (#19); Leader: Deborah Mattern; Greeter: Chris Ayers
Dec. 18 - Advent 4, The Magi Show the Way to Bethlehem (#20); Leader: Deborah Mattern; Greeter: Delaney McLaughlin

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PRAYER FOCUS FOR THE WEEK - Pray your children are blessed. Isaiah 61:9

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PCC Food Needs - December - Beef Stew

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Hearing devices are located in the Narthex to assist in listening to today's service

Pastor: The Rev. Robert D. Smith
Director of Music & Children's Ministries: Mrs. Patricia K. Trail
Director of Youth & Christian Education: Mr. Pete G. Guillard
Organist: Mr. William Turner
Handbell Director: Dr. Erma Rose