

8:45 A.M. ORDER OF WORSHIP
December 11, 2022
3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” – R. Powell

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH:

All Sing

The pastor l the appropriate candles while the congregation all sing the following:

Light three candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.

P. We prepare our hearts and minds for worship, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C. Amen.

BRIEF ORDER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

You may either stand or kneel.

P: God of resurrection life, we come before you today as those who would die to sin and rise to newness of life.

C: Lower into the grave all selfishness, greed, and envy, all harmful desires and unworthy ambitions.

P: Raise from death the good that is in us -- and gift us with the good that is not in us.

C: Help us to love neighbors, strangers, and those we do not even like.

P: We have failed you.

C: We have failed our world.

P: Give us the skill and the desire to bring healing into this world.

C: Forgive us the sins we can name and the sins we cannot name.

(Silence to ponder our wrongs.)

P: Lord, make us channels of blessing for the impoverished and injured souls of this world.

C: In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS:

P: As the Apostle Paul teaches us in Romans chapter 5: If in Adam and Eve all have died—so now--in Jesus Christ--all are made alive. Let us rejoice in the lifegiving power of God's unconditional love. Our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake.

C: Amen.



GATHERING HYMN: "Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus"



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
 2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
 born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer-it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788
 Music: W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

JEFFERSON
 8787D

APOSTOLIC GREETING:

P. 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.

HYMN OF PRAISE:



A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.



B Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your



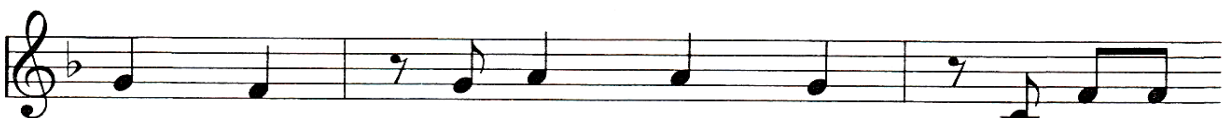
glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther,



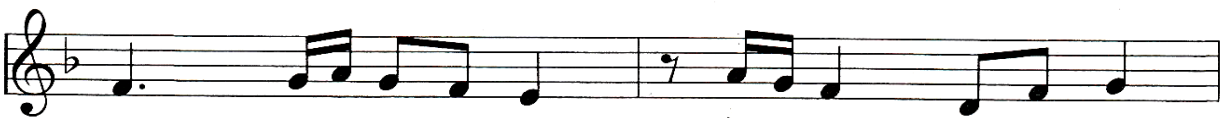
Lord God, Lamb of God: You take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer-cy on us. You are seat-ed at the right hand of the



Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer. For you a -



lone are the Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P. The Lord be with you

C. And also with you.

P. Let us pray

Lord God, give us patience and peace. Give us the faith we need to actively trust you are working in and through every circumstance. We pray through the Holy Spirit, in Jesus' name. Amen.

READINGS FOR TODAY

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 35:1-10

see back of bulletin

PSALM 146:5-10 - *Spoken responsively, the congregation speaks the lines in **bold** print.*

⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the LORD their God;

⁶**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps promises forever;**

⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.
The LORD sets the captive free.

⁸**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.**

⁹The LORD cares for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

¹⁰**The LORD shall reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING: James 5:7-10

see back of bulletin

GOSPEL: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew 11:2-11

see back of bulletin

C. Glory to you, O Lord.

After the reading of the Gospel:

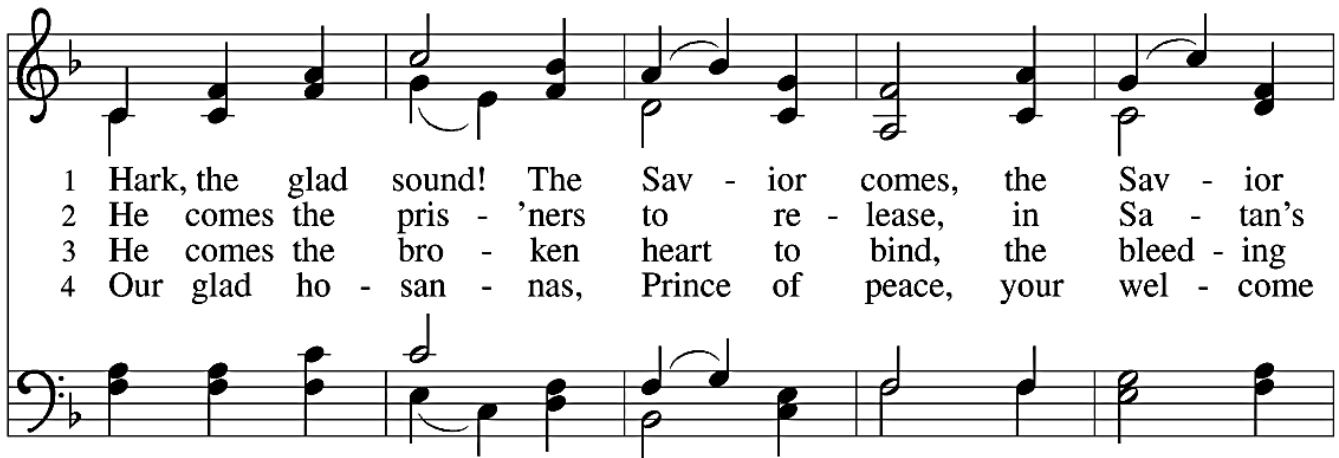
P. The Gospel of the Lord"

C. Praise to you O Christ.

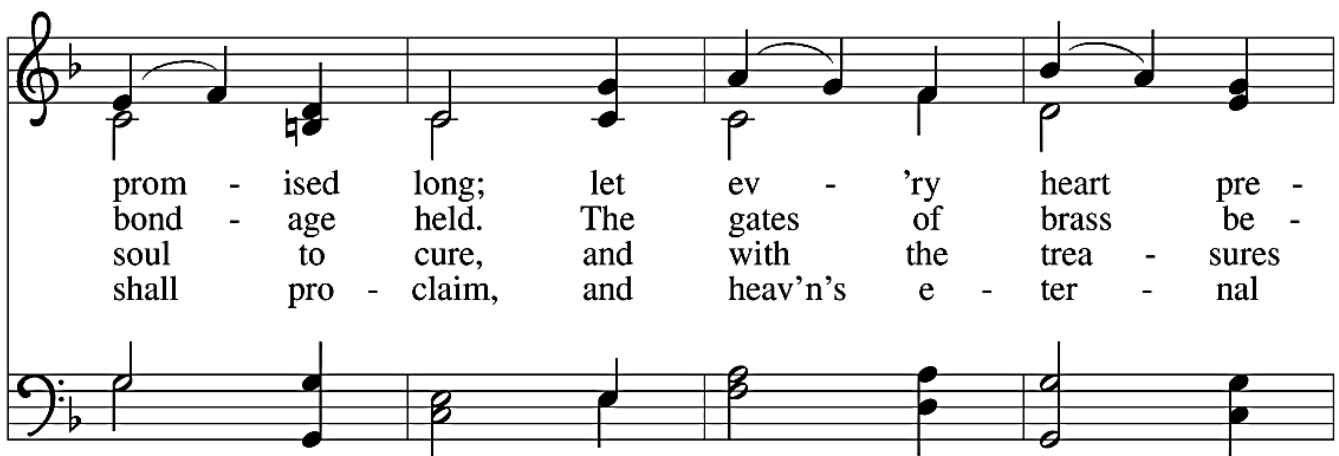
SERMON:

Pastor Heidi-Schwerdtfeger-Jones

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Hark, the Glad Sound!"



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
 soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
 shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

APOSTLES' CREED:

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,**

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen

**CHOIR ANTHEM: "Climb to the top of the highest mountain" – Carolyn Jennings
Soloist: Sue McKinley**

*Climb to the top of the highest mountain, joyous tidings proclaim to the world,
Lift up your voice, shout the good news: Behold, your Lord comes to you.*

*He will feed his flock like a shepherd, He will carry the lambs in his arms,
He will ever keep them safe from harm. Behold, your Lord comes to you.*

*He who made the stars in the heaven, He who fashioned the earth and the sea,
From time eternal he was God, the Alpha and Omega, He. Behold, your Lord!*

*He will come in power and glory, he will rule with mercy and truth,
Hope of the nations, Light of the world, Light of all.*

*He will love the little children, He will hold them in his arms.
Love and trust him as a child, Behold, your Lord comes to you.*

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

(At the end of each petition, the leader will say "Lord, in your mercy." Feel free to respond with "Hear our prayer.")

P. With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING:

(The offering is presented as the Offertory is sung by the congregation.)

C Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were
sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the
hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence, and
give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER:

P. Merciful Father,

C. we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

COMMUNION LITURGY

P. In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

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 trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION:

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. We trust and teach the “real presence” of Jesus, in, with, and under the elements of bread and wine.

As you approach the altar rail, please keep a good space between yourself and others.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sin of the world; grant us peace.

Please stand as you are able

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

C: Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

P. Let us pray. We give you thanks almighty God that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift – in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen

BENEDICTION:

P. Now may God, who has loved us with a love beyond all telling, send us forth to care for the world around us and to share the good news of that love, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C. Amen.

SENDING HYMN: "Hail to the Lord's Anointed"



1 Hail to the Lord's a - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!
 2 You come with res - cue speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong,
 3 You shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth;
 4 Kings shall fall down be - fore you, and gold and in - cense bring;



Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, your reign on earth be - gun!
 to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong;
 love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, spring in your path to birth.
 all na - tions shall a - dore you, your praise all peo - ple sing.



You come to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive
 to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to
 Be - fore you on the moun - tains shall peace, the her - ald,
 To you shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows as -



free, to take a - way trans - gres - sion and
 light, whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, are
 go; and righ - teous - ness in foun - tains from
 cend; your king - dom still in - creas - ing, a



rule in eq - ui - ty.
 pre - cious in your sight.
 hill to val - ley flow.
 king - dom with - out end.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt.

Music: FREUT EÜCH, IHR LIEBEN, Leonhart Schröter, 1540–1602

DISMISSAL:

P. Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: "Hark the Glad Sound" – C. S. Lang

Today's altar flowers are given by Kelly Shelton in honor of her 40th wedding anniversary,
 and her son-in-law's birthday.