

Third Sunday of Advent

December 13th 2020

Welcome & Announcements

Ringling of the Bell

Prelude

Gathering Around the Word

Advent Candle Lighting

The Brock Family

Call to Worship

from Isaiah 61:1-4, Luke 1:46-55

The Promised One of God brings good news to the oppressed and binds up the brokenhearted. Our souls proclaim the greatness of God, and our spirits rejoice. We will praise God as long as we live! The Promised One of God proclaims liberty to captives and release to prisoners. Let us sing praises to God our whole lives! Let us trust in the Creator of heaven and earth, the one who gives food to the hungry, the one who enacts justice for the oppressed. May our souls proclaim God's greatness as we worship; as we light candles; as we proclaim the coming of the Lord. Let us worship God!

Hymn

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

HYFRYDOL

*Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.*

Call to Confession

Old habits and new wrongs wear ruts through our lives and relationships. But God is able to restore us. Like water coursing through a desert, the waters of baptism flow through us, reminding us that we belong to God and are raised to new life.

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

God, you promise joy,
and to fulfill that promise you give us many gifts:
gifts of doing justice, loving mercy,
and bringing good news.
But we prefer Christmas cheer.
It's more fun, for less effort.
You call us to rejoice—
to live with a joy deeper than cheer or happiness.
More than sparkle and parties, a joy that brings you glory.
But we prefer our own glory, our own smiles.

Forgive us, O God, our forced cheer and shallow celebration.
Show us again your way, that we may rejoice in you.
Lead us in your promised path.
In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, We can rejoice in the Lord! With an everlasting covenant sealed by love and mercy, God has clothed us with salvation. God has covered us with righteousness. The prophets have promised this good news:

All: In Jesus Christ, our coming Lord, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

Response

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.*

Listening to the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Holy God, giver of life and light, as your word is read and proclaimed, illumine our hearts and minds, that by the power of the Holy Spirit, our lives may reflect God's glory. **Amen.**

First Reading *Isaiah 61:1-4*

61 The Lord God's spirit is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim release for captives, and liberation for prisoners, ² to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and a day of vindication for our God, to comfort all who mourn, ³ to provide for Zion's mourners, to give them a crown in place of ashes, oil of joy in place of mourning, a mantle of praise in place of discouragement. They will be called Oaks of Righteousness, planted by the Lord to glorify himself. ⁴ They will rebuild the ancient ruins; they will restore formerly deserted places; they will renew ruined cities, places deserted in generations past.

Anthem "Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn!"

REJOICE, REJOICE

Second Reading *Luke 1:46-55*

"With all my heart I glorify the Lord! ⁴⁷ In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my savior. ⁴⁸ He has looked with favor on the low status of his servant. Look! From now on, everyone will consider me highly favored ⁴⁹ because the mighty one has done great things for me. Holy is his name. ⁵⁰ He shows mercy to everyone, from one generation to the next, who honors him as God. ⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm. He has scattered those with arrogant thoughts and proud inclinations. ⁵² He has pulled the powerful down from their thrones and lifted up the lowly. ⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty-handed. ⁵⁴ He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, remembering his mercy, ⁵⁵ just as he promised to our ancestors, to Abraham and to Abraham's descendants forever."

Responding to the Word

Hymn

“Canticle of the Turning”

STAR OF THE COUNTRY DOWN

*My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?
My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.*

Sharing our Prayers

Prayers of the People

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.

The Doxology

*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.*

Charge & Benediction

Blessing

“Come Now, O Prince of Peace”

O-SO-SO

*Come now, O Prince of Peace; make us one body. Come, O Lord Jesus; reconcile all people.
Come now, O God of love; make us one body. Come, O Lord Jesus; reconcile all people.
Come now and set us free, O God, our Savior. Come, O Lord Jesus; reconcile all people.
Come, hope of unity; make us one body. Come, O Lord Jesus; reconcile all people.*

Postlude

“Rejoice, Rejoice Believers”

This week's liturgist is Paula Burlew
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