

**Bulletin for Sunday, December 13, 2020**

***Third Sunday of Advent***

PRELUDE

GREETING and WELCOME

TIME of CENTERING PRAYER

\*CALL to WORSHIP:

L: We come to worship Christ

**P: Who proclaims good news to the poor, binds up the broken-hearted, frees the prisoner, and comforts those who mourn.**

L: We come to worship Christ

**P: Who bestows a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy Instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.**

L: We come to worship Christ

**P: Who rebuilds ancient ruins and restores broken places. Praise Christ for his redeeming work!**

HYMN STORY      “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

LIGHTING of the ADVENT WREATHE

CALL to CONFESSION

The proof of God’s amazing love is this: While we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Because we have faith in him, we dare to approach God with confidence. In faith and penitence, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

PRAYER of CONFESSION

God, you share with us words of hope, words of Good News. But sometimes we are unable to hear them because the source is too familiar. You call us to share the Good News with those around us. But sometimes we are unable to share, because the people know us too well. You encourage us to send messengers to other places where they will be heard better. But we can be jealous, wanting the Good News to be for us, not them. In the multitude of ways we can and have subverted your message of freedom and healing, in all the ways we have kept the Jubilee year from happening, we have left the path of true wisdom and call upon your Grace to lead us back on track.

SILENT PRAYERS of CONFESSION

WORDS of PARDON and ASSURANCE

This is the time of God's favor. God's grace continues to proclaim release to the captives, sight to the blind, Good News to the poor, and freedom to the oppressed. We live as loved, forgiven, and free people through the grace of God! **Hallelujah! Amen.**

MUSICAL OFFERING:      “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”      Paul Humphrey

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

MUSICAL OFFERING: "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" Paul Humphrey

\*GOSPEL LESSON: John 1:6-8, 19-28

SERMON: "Company Is Coming Part 3: Deck the Halls" Pastor Warner

PRAYER CONCERNS / PASTORAL PRAYER 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 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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*HYMN STORY "Angels We Have Heard on High"

\*BENEDICTION

Go in peace; love and care for one another in the name of Christ;  
- and may God the Father bless you richly,  
- may Christ the Son pour the riches of his grace upon you,  
- and may the Holy Spirit, our comfort and our support, lead you in the path of hope, and of peace, of joy and of love.  
both now and forevermore. Amen

\*\* *Flowers on the altar are given in honor of*