THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 12, 2021
9:00 AM



New Song

CHURCH LIFE UPDATE Steven Phillips

CALL TO WORSHIP AND DAWNING OF THE LIGHT Sean and Christine Harrington, James, Charlotte, and Andrew

The prophets describe all creation's joy at the coming of God.
And so we light candles in darkest days,
remembering God's healing power.

(Three Advent candles are lit.)

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.
As the Lord has promised, in days to come
the wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom.
Like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.
Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

SONGS OF WORSHIP *Angels from the Realms of Glory*
Christmas Offering

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Margaret LaMotte Torrence

Holy One,
We imagine you might meet us in safe and predictable ways.
Instead, you ask us to follow a path we cannot see,
to trust you'll light the way.

As you came to David in the fields,
to Mary in her youth,
to Joseph in his dreams,
meet us in this place
that we, too, might be vessels for your desire.

In freedom, overshadow us.
In love, dwell among us.
In power, send us out
until the whole world rings with the good news of your coming.

(silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

THE PEACE OF CHRIST

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:26-38

SERMON *"The Servant of the Lord"* Margaret LaMotte Torrence

RECOGNITION OF NEW MEMBERS

RESPONSE OF FAITH From *A Declaration of Faith*
Katie Morrison

We affirm that Jesus was born of woman
as is every child,
yet born of God's power
as was no other child.
In the person and work of Jesus,
God himself and a human life
are united but not confused,
distinguished but not separated.
The coming of Jesus was itself
the coming of God's promised rule.
Through his birth, life, death, and resurrection,
He brings about the relationship between God and humanity
that God always intended.

Jesus is Lord!
He has been Lord from the beginning.
He will be Lord at the end.
Even now he is Lord.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Name

SONG OF RESPONSE *Control (Somehow You Want Me)*

SENDING SONG *Did You Feel the Mountains Tremble*

BENEDICTION Margaret LaMotte Torrence

Music: CCLI License #2296940

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2050 Oak Street • Sarasota, FL 34237
(941) 955-8119 • www.firstpressarasota.org