THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 15, 2024
11:00 AM

As a courtesy to others, please silence your phone.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

RINGING OF THE BELLS

LIFE OF THE CHURCH Rev. Timothy T. Boggess

PRELUDE *Still, Still, Still* German Carol/arr. Paul Manz

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES Emily, Charlie and Wells Weitekamp

***HYMN 104** *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You* VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

O Lord, how shall I meet you,
how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you,
my hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, Lord most holy,
a lamp within my breast,
to do in spirit lowly
all that may please you best.

Love caused your incarnation;
love brought you down to me;
your thirst for my salvation
procured my liberty.
O love beyond all telling,
that led you to embrace
in love, all loves excelling,
our lost and fallen race.

You come, O Lord, with gladness,
in mercy and goodwill,
to bring an end to sadness
and bid our fears be still.
In patient expectation
we live for that great day
when your renewed creation
your glory shall display.

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Urgent God,
we live our lives as if we had
all the time in the world.
We put off doing the things we should
and keep doing the things we want.
Forgive us.
Give us the time and energy to amend our ways
and make good use of the days to come.

(a moment for silent reflection)

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God.

***SONG OF JOY 113** (refrain) *Angels We Have Heard on High* GLORIA

Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

ANTHEM *Rise, Up, Shepherd, and Follow* Traditional Spiritual/
(The Chancel Choir) arr. André Thomas

Star in the East on Christmas morn;
Leads to the place where the Christ was born;
Leave your sheep and leave your lambs;
Leave your ewes and leave your rams.
If you take good heed to the angel's words;
You'll forget your flocks, you'll forget your herds!

There's a star in the East on Christmas morn;
Rise up, shepherd, and follow;
It will lead to the place where the Christ was born;
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

Refrain:
Follow, follow;
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.
Follow the Star of Bethlehem;
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

Leave your sheep, leave your sheep, and leave your lambs;
Rise up, shepherd, and follow;
Leave your ewes and your rams, leave your ewes and rams;
Rise up, shepherd, and follow. (Refrain)

If you take good heed to the angel's words;
Rise up, shepherd, and follow;
You'll forget your flocks, you'll forget your herds;
Rise up, shepherd, and follow. (Refrain)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

page 935 **SCRIPTURE READING** Luke 3:7-18

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON *What Then Should We Do?* Rev. Boggess

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Floyd Churn

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.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* arr. Paul Manz

***DOXOLOGY** *What Child Is This* GREENSLEEVES

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, one and all, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

from *A Declaration of Faith* (1977) ***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** Floyd Churn

The people of God have often misused God's promises
as excuses for doing nothing about present evils.
But in Christ the new world has already broken in
and the old can no longer be tolerated.
We know our efforts cannot bring in God's kingdom.
But hope plunges us into the struggle
for victories over evil that are possible now
in the world, the church, and our individual lives.
Hope gives us courage and energy
to contend against all opposition,
however invincible it may seem,
for the new world and the new humanity
that are surely coming.

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN 143** *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* REGENT SQUARE

Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
you, who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!

Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant light:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!

Sages, leave your contemplations;
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations;
you have seen his natal star:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!

All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** Rev. Boggess

POSTLUDE *Gloria!* arr. Steven Phillips

The postlude concludes our worship today. It's the custom of this congregation to sit and enter into this moment with gratitude and celebration.

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