

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 14, 2025
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

MOMENT FOR DISCIPLESHIP - ALL FAITHS FOOD BANK Rick Holdsworth

PRELUDE *Go Tell it on the Mountain* arr. Frank Voltz, harpist

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES Annette Landes & Frank Frey

***HYMN 104** *O Lord How Shall I Meet You* 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**

Merciful God,
we come to you confessing that, like John,
we sometimes stumble in our waiting.
When your timing confuses us,
when your ways do not match our expectations,
we begin to wonder if you are truly the one we hoped for.
Forgive us when doubt clouds our vision and when fear
keeps us from seeing the signs of your kingdom breaking in.
Open our eyes to recognize you as the one who has come
and is still coming with life for all.

(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 *Lo, How a Rose* arr. Deborah Govenor
(The Chancel Choir)

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
As men of old have sung.
It came, a flower bright,
Amid the cold of winter
When half-gone was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The Rose I have in mind:
With Mary we behold it,
The virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright
She bore to men a Savior
When half-gone was the night.

This Flower, whose fragrance tender
With sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor
The darkness everywhere.
True man, yet very God,
From sin and death He saves us
And lightens every load.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

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SCRIPTURE READINGS Isaiah 35:1-10
Matthew 11:2-6

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON *Tidings of Comfort and Joy* Rev. Boggess
Advent Series: Learning to See in the Dark

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Frank Frey

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 *Silent Night* arr. Frank Voltz, harpist

***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** Annette Landes

We believe Christ gives us and demands of us
lives in pilgrimage toward God's kingdom.
Christ calls each of us to a life appropriate to that kingdom:
to serve as he has served us;
to take up our cross,
risking the consequences of faithful discipleship;
to walk by faith, not by sight,
to hope for what we have not seen.

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 Improvisation on *Angels We Have Heard on High* 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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