

Third Sunday of Advent



Order for the
PUBLIC WORSHIP *of* GOD

December 17, 2017

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*As you enter the Sanctuary, please prepare your heart for worship
and silence your mobile devices.*

God's final answer to everything that has ever terrorized you is a child. The power of God is so far superior to the Assyrians in Isaiah's day as well as to all the other big shots of this world in our day. He can defeat them by coming as a child. His answer to the bullies swaggering through history is not to become an even bigger bully. His answer is Jesus.

Jesus has multi-faceted methods of assisting us. When we need wisdom, let us remember that He is a wonder of a counselor. When we need strength, let us learn to soothe all temporal distresses with the knowledge that He is the God of might. When we experience rejection, let us run into His Father's arms for He lavishes His love upon His children both now and throughout eternity. When Satan attempts to disturb our consciences, let us remember that Jesus is the Prince of Peace.

Prayer of Preparation

Lord Jesus, You are a wonderful counselor.
You have the best ideas and strategies. Grant us grace to follow You.
You are the mighty God. You defeat all Your enemies.
Let us hide ourselves in You.
You are the everlasting Father. You love us endlessly.
Cause us to know more fully the wonder of Your love.
You are the prince of peace. You have reconciled us to God,
even while we were yet Your enemies.
Show us how to welcome Your rule in our lives. Amen.

ADORE THE SHEPHERD KING

ORGAN PRELUDE:

Celtic Toccata on "Angels We Have Heard on High" Grimoaldo Macchia
Samuel Metzger, organ

INSTRUMENTAL PRELUDE:

Pastorale from "Christmas Concerto No. 3" Francesco Manfredini
*Steve Hancock and Clay Hancock, violin; Betty Eubank, viola;
Kenneth Coca, cello; Brad Jones, harpsichord*

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

8:15: Artez, Ebony, AJ, and Grace Henderson
11:00: Andy, Michelle, Lilley Grace, and Carson Adair

SCRIPTURAL CALL TO WORSHIP Michael G. Stokke

♠HYMN OF PRAISE: No. 203 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" MENDELSSOHN

♠FIRST PROPHETIC LESSON: Select verses from Micah 5. Grace Knight (8:15)
Don Batchelor (11:00)

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small among the clans of Judah,

**out of you will come for me
one who will be ruler over Israel,**

whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."

**He will stand and shepherd his flock
in the strength of the Lord,**

in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

And they will live securely,

for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.

And he will be our peace.

**Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King."**

✦ INVOCATION (*please raise hands*)

RECEIVE THE HEAVENLY KING

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious and holy Father,
we confess our willingness to be loved
but also our reluctance to love.
We confess our readiness to accept Your pardoning grace
yet we are slow to forgive others.
We confess our eagerness to receive Your redeeming love
but we resist following You without question.
In this Advent season,
forgive us for our failure to respond as we ought.
Come to us anew, and by Your grace,
transform us to receive You
with joy, as the shepherds;
with gratitude, as Simeon;
with obedience, as Mary;
with love, as You have first loved us.
Even so: Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF DIVINE PARDON. Micah 7:18-19

*Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives
the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance?
You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy.
You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot
and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.*

HYMN OF ASSURANCE: "From Heaven Above I Come to You" . . . VOM HIMMEL HOCH

From heaven above to earth I come to bring good news to ev'ry home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring, of which I now will say and sing.

Christy Young, soloist

Congregation to stand and sing:



2. "To you this night is born a Child of Ma - ry,
3. "This is the Christ, our God and Lord, who in all
4. Now let us all with glad - some cheer go with the



cho - sen moth - er mild; this lit - tle Child of
need shall aid af - ford; he will him - self your
shep - herds and draw near to see the pre - cious



low - ly birth shall be the joy of all the earth."
Sav - ior be from all your sins to set you free."
Gift of God, who hath his own dear Son be - stowed.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS T. Barton Kimbro

For many years Second's Caring Ministry has provided financial assistance to our members and to those in the Memphis community. Today you have an opportunity to contribute to this fund. A special envelope is available in the pew rack.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: "Before the Marvel of This Night" Carl Schalk

Before the marvel of this night adoring, fold your wings and bow,
Then tear the sky apart with light and with your news the world endow.
Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace, that fear and death and sorrow cease:
Sing peace, sing gift of peace!

Awake the sleeping world with song, this is the day the Lord has made.
Assemble here, celestial throng, in royal splendor come arrayed.
Give earth a glimpse of heavenly bliss, a teasing taste of what they miss:
Sing bliss, sing endless bliss!

The love that we have always known, our constant joy and endless light,
Now to the loveless world be shown, now break upon its deathly night.
Into one song compress the love, that rules our universe above:
Sing love, sing God is love!

*The Westminster Singers (8:15), The Chancel Choir (11:00)
Christy Young, director*

✦ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE VOM HIMMEL HOCH

**All glory be to God in heaven, who unto us his Son has given.
While angels sing with tender mirth, a glad new year to all the earth.**

✦ PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

TRUST THE CHILD KING

✦ GREETINGS

A WORD TO THE CHILDREN (8:15)

✦ PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION 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 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.**

SECOND PROPHETIC LESSON Isaiah 9:1-7
(page 573 in pew Bible)

All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field;
**The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the Word of our God will stand forever.** *(Isaiah 40:6b, 8)*

SERMON *Christmas Is Like...* David A. Bowen

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

✦ HYMN OF COMMITMENT: No. 207 "Good Christian Men, Rejoice" . . IN DULCI JUBILO

✦ BENEDICTION *(please raise hands)*

✦ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE VENI EMMANUEL

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to Thee, O Israel.

ORGAN POSTLUDE:
Toccata on "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" Garth Edmundson

I. Like (See 3 comparisons in Isaiah 9:1-5)

- A. Gloom to glow (vv. 1-2)

- B. Farm to fork (v. 3)

- C. Oppression to liberation (vv. 4-5)

II. Christmas (Apply 5 prophecies of the incarnation in Isaiah 9:6-7)

- A. A child (v. 6a; Genesis 3:15)

- B. A son (v. 6b; Genesis 15:6)

- C. An heir (v. 6c; Genesis 49:10)

- D. A name (v. 6d; Philippians 2:9-10)

- E. A kingdom (v. 7; II Samuel 7:14)

FESTIVAL of CAROLS

Tonight at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

This service, featuring our Chancel Choir and Orchestra, is an annual favorite filled with beautiful Advent hymns and a Christmas carol sing-along.