

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

Let us take this time to quiet our hearts and minds and prepare for worship.

* Please stand if able Plain text = Leader **Bold text = People**

PRELUDE *What Child Is This* Arr. John Innes
Organ-Piano Duet, Betty Niquette, Piano

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Laura Sugg

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE John & Roxanne Foster
(As Candle Lighters come up, please sing He Came Down- Tune No. 2085 in STF)
**He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy, Hallelujah forevermore.**

Third Sunday of Advent: Watch and wait for Christ's coming! We light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God with prayer.

We light this candle in hope. (*Light the first candle.*)

We light this candle for peace. (*Light the second candle.*)

We light this candle for joy. (*Light the third pink candle.*)

Let us pray: God of hope, God of peace, God of joy, you are our salvation; we trust in you and are not afraid. Lead us to draw water with rejoicing from the springs of salvation.

God of promise, God of joy, into our darkness come.

* CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand) Elder
Sing for joy; shout out loud! God, who is our love, is among us.

May God's presence fill us with hope and joy!

Sing aloud; rejoice in your hearts! Christ, who is our salvation, has come.

May the celebration of Christ's birth renew our hearts with love and grace!

Sing praises; laugh out loud! The Spirit, who is our peace, dwells in us.

May the Spirit bring us blessings to share with everyone we meet!

* HYMN *Prepare the Way* No. 13

CALL TO PRAYER AND PRAYER FOR RENEWAL (Be seated) Elder

Come, tell your story to God. Tell of the good you have done, of the mistakes you have made, of the gentleness you have shared, of the hurt you have caused.

Let God know of your longings for forgiveness, for healing, as you join me saying...

We don't fret over just anything, God of Wonder, we worry about everything that comes our way. Our faithful companion, stress guides us further and further from your gentle presence. Instead of waiting for you, we rush through these days. We keep the hopes we could offer to you stuffed deep in our pockets rather than lifting them to you. Forgive us.

Let your grace be known to all who come to you. May your peace fill our spirits, may your hope be our strength, may your joy encompass our hearts as we celebrate the Advent of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who is our Hope forever!

(A time for silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE Laura Sugg

Amen. This is the good news, dear friends:

God does wonders for us—forgiving us, refreshing us with love, singing glad songs of salvation to us.

We will lift up God's name, praising the One who is our strength, our salvation, our hope, our joy. Thanks be to God! We are forgiven. Amen.

*GLORIA Tune: Gloria No. 23

Let the nations shout and sing: glory to their Savior bring;

All below and all above sing your praise with joyous love.

Glo—ria in excelsis Deo; glo—ria in excelsis Deo.

HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS Isaiah 12:2-6, Philippians 4:4-7 Pgs. 655, 190
The word of the Lord. Deacon

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

TIME FOR CHILDREN (*As the children come forward, please join in singing.*)
**This, this is where children belong, part of our family, part of our song.
Be with us, pray with us, help us grow strong, this is where children belong.**

SERMON *Don't Worry. Be Joyful!* Laura Sugg

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Please Stand) Elder

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all the peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries on Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy, joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus"! Amen.

—From *A Brief Statement of Faith* (1991)

* HYMN *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!* No. 145

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Front of Hymnal Pg. 16

(Pray, "Forgive us our sins...")

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

OFFERTORY

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Arr. John Innes

* PRESENTATION OF OFFERING

No. 414

***As those of old their first fruits brought of vineyard, flock and field
to God, the giver of all good, the source of bounteous yield.
so we today our first fruits bring, the wealth of this good land;
Of farm and market, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand, Amen.***

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Laura Sugg

* HYMN

Joy to the World!

No. 40

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

* SUNG CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.



Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered to - day.

POSTLUDE

Venite Adoremus

Arr. Roger C. Wilson

Please come through to Fellowship Hall for coffee and conversation.

Pulpit Elder: Jo Ann Flores

Greeters: Jaime and Pat Yrastorza

Sound Engineer: Sean Mestdagh

Flowers: Karen Powers

Deacon Reader: Lori Golightly

Ushers: Jeff Stimson and Ted Willis

Children's Time: Linda Valo



*WPC Mission Statement
To worship God through faith and action,
to nurture the spirit of Jesus Christ in each of us,
to be an extended family to all,
and to serve the community
through programs, education and prayer.*

***Third Sunday of Advent: Joy
December 13, 2015***