

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

Prelude on "Veni Emmanuel," Arr. Herbert Buffington
Organ/Piano Duet, Betty Niquette, piano

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Dr. Laura S. Sugg

Christ, Be Our Light!



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



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

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Matt and Kelsey Briggs

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice."

The world says, "Worry," and we say, "Rejoice."

The news says, "Fear," and we say, "Rejoice."

The world says, "Be happy," and the church says, "Be faithful."

As we light our third Advent candle,

we pray for hope, peace, and joy.

Come now, O child of Mary.

Come now, O Prince of Joy.

* HYMN

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

No. 145

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL (Be seated)

Elder

Trusting in God's tender mercy, we pray for renewal. Let us pray...

You have told us what we should do:

live humbly, give generously, and be rich in compassion.

Even still, O God, we fall back into our selfish ways.

We have been claimed in the waters of baptism,

but we do not live as people redeemed.

We have been washed in waters of grace,

but we do not trust the depth of your love.

Forgive us, God of mercy.

Heal us, guide us, and call us to try again.

(A time for silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

Phil. 3:9

Amen. Our righteousness is found in Christ alone,

a gift of God by faith.

Beloved people of God, believe the good news:

through the grace of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

HEARING THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 12:2-6

Pg. 656

Heaven and earth will pass away,

but the word of the Lord stands forever.

Deacon

Isaiah 40:8, Mark 13:31

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

The Holly and the Ivy

English Carol

Arr. Russell Robinson

EPISTLE READING

Philippians: 4:4-7

Pg. 190

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

I've Got that Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy!

Laura Sugg

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Please Stand)

Elder

We believe Christ gives us and demands of us

lives in pilgrimage toward God's kingdom.

Like Christ we may enjoy on our journey

all that sustains life and makes it pleasant and beautiful.

No more than Christ are we spared

the darkness, ambiguity, and threat of life in the world.

We are in the world, but not of the world.

Our confidence and hope for ourselves and other people

do not rest in the powers and achievements of this world,

but in the coming and hidden presence of God's kingdom. Amen.

--from A Declaration of Faith (1977)

* HYMN

When in the Night I Meditate

No. 165

MINUTE FOR MISSION—CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Ann Ludvigsen

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Front of Hymnal Pg. 16

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

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Let us bring to God our offerings, with thanksgiving that God provides more than enough for all. Let us give, as each is able, for the benefit of Christ's church and God's world.

OFFERTORY *Watchman, Tell Us Of The Night* Tune: Aberystwyth, Joseph Parry
Organ/Piano Duet, Betty Niquette, piano Arr. James Mansfield

* PRESENTATION OF OFFERING Tune: 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.***

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION Laura Sugg

* HYMN *Joy to the World!* No. 40

* CHARGE & BLESSING

* SUNG CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: *He Came Down* STF 2085
**He came down that we may have JOY (sing this line 3 times)
hallelujah forevermore.**

POSTLUDE *God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen* Traditional English Carol
Organ/Piano Duet, Betty Niquette, piano Arr. Don Wyrzten

Please come through to Fellowship Hall for refreshments and conversation.

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|---|--------------------------------------|
| Pulpit Elder: Anne Baker | Deacon Reader: Lori Golightly |
| Greeter: Jeff Stimson | Sound Engineer: Jim Niquette |
| Ushers: Bill & Karen Powers | Visitor Desk: Ariane Meyer |
| Time With Children & Youth: Betsy Smith | Poinsettias: Friends & Family of WPC |

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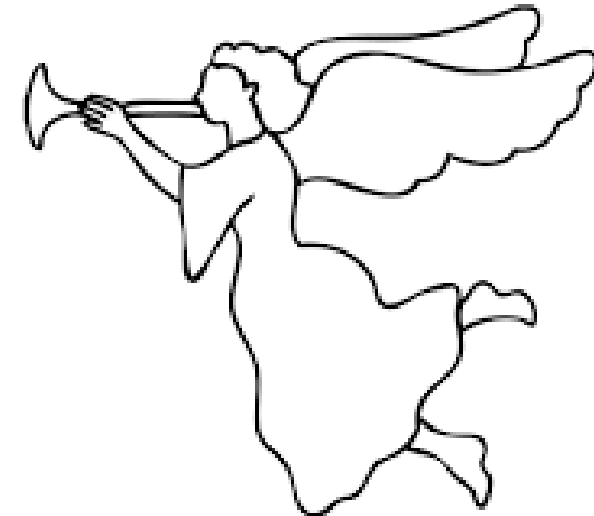
Director of Christian Education, Children & Youth: Linda Valo

Organist, Hand Bell Choir Director: Julie Pulliam, M.A.

Choir Director: Katie Sakanai, M.M. Ed.

Treasurer: Eileen Gardner, C.P.A. • Assistant Treasurer: Betsy Smith

Administrative Assistant: Jenny Garner



Joy

*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 December 16, 2018