

December 11, 2022
9:30 am
Third Sunday of Advent

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“Den die Hirten lobten sehre”

Helmut Walcha

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*HYMN NO. 95

“Prepare the Way of the Lord”

PREPARE THE WAY

Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord,
and all people will see the salvation of our God.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Lighting the candles today is the Heun Family

*HYMN NO. 104 v. 1,2,3

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

This season is supposed to be so holy, God of Christmas, yet the din of sales pitches turns us into cynical grumps. As we drive down the streets, the decorations on all the houses keep us from seeing the loneliness of the widower, the strained faces of those who fear the future. We are so determined to find just the right gift or card which speaks of joy, we forget that you came so long ago to offer justice to those who have none.

Be patient with us, God of our hearts, as we struggle to speak for the voiceless, to walk with those who have lost their way, to let go of our certainty of what really happened to long ago, and listen to the songs of children which speak of that peace which really can bring reconciliation, of that grace which really can offer hope, of that love which really can to us that night in Bethlehem, in the birth of Jesus, our Brother, our Savior. Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Do not be afraid, but believe. Our God is here, opening our eyes to see that salvation which is ours approaching us in this season of Advent.

We join our voices in rejoicing in Jesus who is our Savior. The One who calls us blessed, is the Lord who forgives us. Amen.

*HYMN NO. 88 v. 4

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

VENI EMMANUEL

**O come, O Root of Jesse, free thine own from Satan’s tyranny;
from depts of hell Thy people save, and give them victory o’er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

PROCLAIMING AND RESPONDING

CHILDREN’S SERMON

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 35:1-10 Page 623 OT

SPECIAL MUSIC *“Soon and Very Soon”* Andrae Crouch

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 1:46b-55 Page 53 NT

SERMON “Reflecting the Sacred: Sacred Space” Rev. William Schram

*HYMN NO. 98 vs 1,2,5,6 *“To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary”* Annunciation

1. To a maid whose name was May, the angel Gabriel came.
“Fear not,” the angel told her, “I come to bring good news;
good news I come to tell you, good news, I say, good news .”
2. “For you are highly favored by God the Lord of all,
who even now is with you. You are on earth most blest;
you are most blest, most blessed, God chose you, you are blest!”
5. “How shall this be?” said Mary, “I am not yet a wife.”
The angel answered quickly, “The power of the Most High
will come upon you shortly, your child shall be God’s child.”
6. As Mary heard the angel, she wondered at his words.
“Behold, I am your handmaid,” she said unto her God.
“So be it; I am ready according to your word.”

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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

EXPRESSING OUR GRATITUDE

INVITATION TO GIVING

GOING FORTH

*HYMN NO. 100 *“My Soul Cries Out”* STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

1. My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirits sing of the wondrous things you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant’s plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain:

***My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.***

2. Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those for you would yearn,
you will show your might; put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.

Refrain

3. From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread; every mouth be fed; for the world is about to turn.

Refrain

4. Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds the fast;
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around.

Refrain

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide

Wilbur Held

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Rev. William Schram
Valerie Shondel, Interim Music Director
Chancel Choir
Ray Liptak & Rob Thiemann, AV Engineers
Michael Sperrazza, & Matthew Califf AV Team

****Please rise in body or in spirit***

†If you are new to the church...**Welcome!** We're glad to have you here.
After the service today, we hope you will join us for Coffee Hour in Room 120 located
through the door to the left of the choir loft and left to the end of the hall.

✠ For more information about our First Pres, please visit our website:

www.firstprescaldwell.org

December 18th—Christmas Family Service @ 10AM (One service this day)
December 18th @ 6:00 pm—Service of Peace and Hope
December 23rd—Contemporary Christmas Service @ 7PM
December 24th—Christmas Eve Services at 8PM and 10PM
December 25th—Video Broadcast Service at 10AM (No in person worship service)

