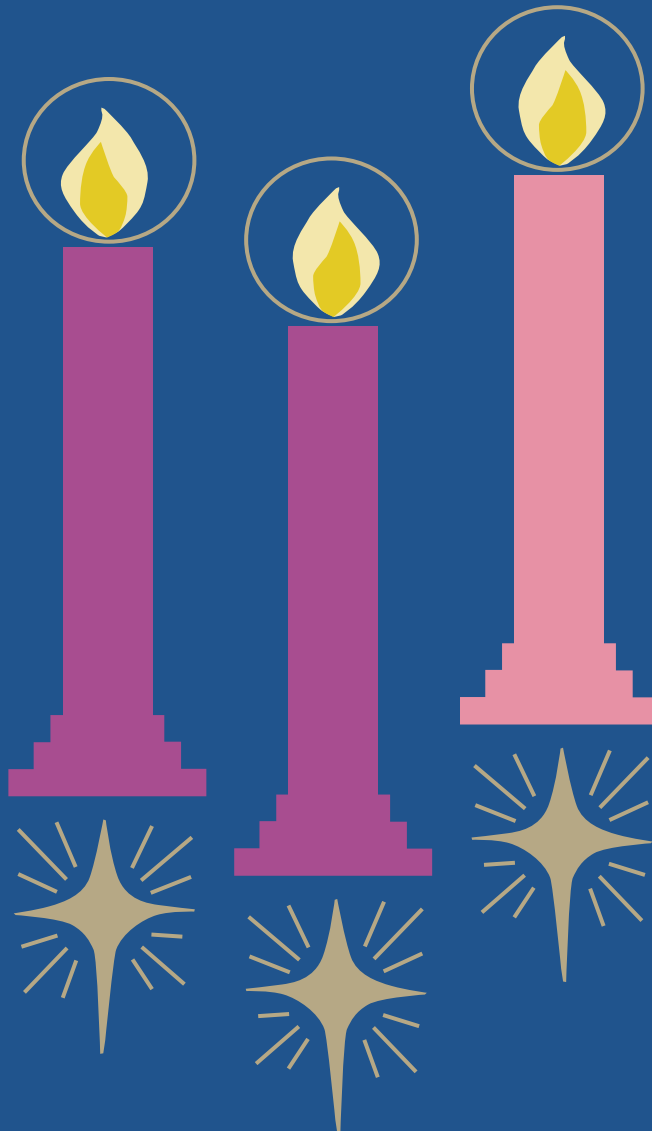


# ADVENT

**The Third Sunday of Advent**

Sunday, December 11, 2022



**TODAY'S OFFERING OF WORSHIP  
THIS THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

*We gather together...*

**INTROIT:** *Gaudete*

ARR. Michael Burkhardt

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES:** *Stephanie Nelson and Kendall Magnuson*

**WELCOME**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

We gather in preparation

**for good news is about to be proclaimed.**

We gather in expectation

**for joy is about to explode in our midst.**

We gather in celebration for we are those people who have said

**yes to the manger,**

**yes to love enfleshed,**

**yes to the one incarnate for others,**

**yes to the God who is always coming to redeem our world.**

With preparation and in expectation, let us celebrate!

\***HYMN #128:** *Prepare the Way, O Zion*

\***INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name.**

**Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever.**

**Amen.**

*...to hear God's Word...*

**FIRST LESSON**

Isaiah 35:1-10 (*Old Testament page 663*)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Amen.**

**CANTICLE:** *The Magnificat (Luke 1:46b-55)*

**HYMN #145:** (*Congregation sings refrain*)

## SECOND LESSON

James 5:7-10 (*New Testament page 231*)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Amen.**

## \*GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 11:2-11 (*New Testament page 11*)

The Gospel of our Lord, God's living Word. **Thanks be to God.**

## \*CONFESSION (*based on Isaiah 60:1-3*)

Arise, shine: for your light has come.

**O God, we live as if the light  
had never defeated the darkness in the world or in us.**

And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

**We confess that we ignore the Christ  
you sent to be among us, to be in us.**

For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.

**We've kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season  
and do not yearn for his birth each moment in our waiting hearts.**

And nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your rising.

**Lord, you came to us in the fullness of time.  
Forgive us for not opening our eyes to your coming.  
It's time that we prepare for your coming.  
Let the earth ring with song. Let the light break forth.  
Let us all rejoice in the miracle of love.  
Let Christ come into the fullness of our time. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The good news of our Advent season is forgiveness of sin and new life.  
Let us commit our lives to Christ's way of hope and peace.

**Thanks be to our Advent God, who comes among us,  
setting us free to love and serve.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

\*HYMN #134: *Long Ago, Prophets Knew*

SERMON: *Rev. Steve Elde*

*...and to respond with our lives...*

**CHORAL ANTHEM:** *Come Now, Savior of the Nations*

Michael Burkhardt

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**OFFERINGS TO GOD**

\*Doxology: **Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*...in the places we now go.*

**HYMN #135:** *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**CLOSING ANTHEM:** *Soon and Very Soon*

Andrae Crouch, ARR. Jack Schrader

*Join us after the service for coffee and conversation, in the Narthex.*

*Welcome!*

GREETERS: George and Claire Scranton

ACOLYTES: Phia and Signe

READERS: Tom and Diney Ruebel

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: Corbin Sheffels

USHER: Corbin Sheffels

COFFEE SERVERS: Jean and Tom Mohrweis

LIVESTREAM: Axel Nelson

