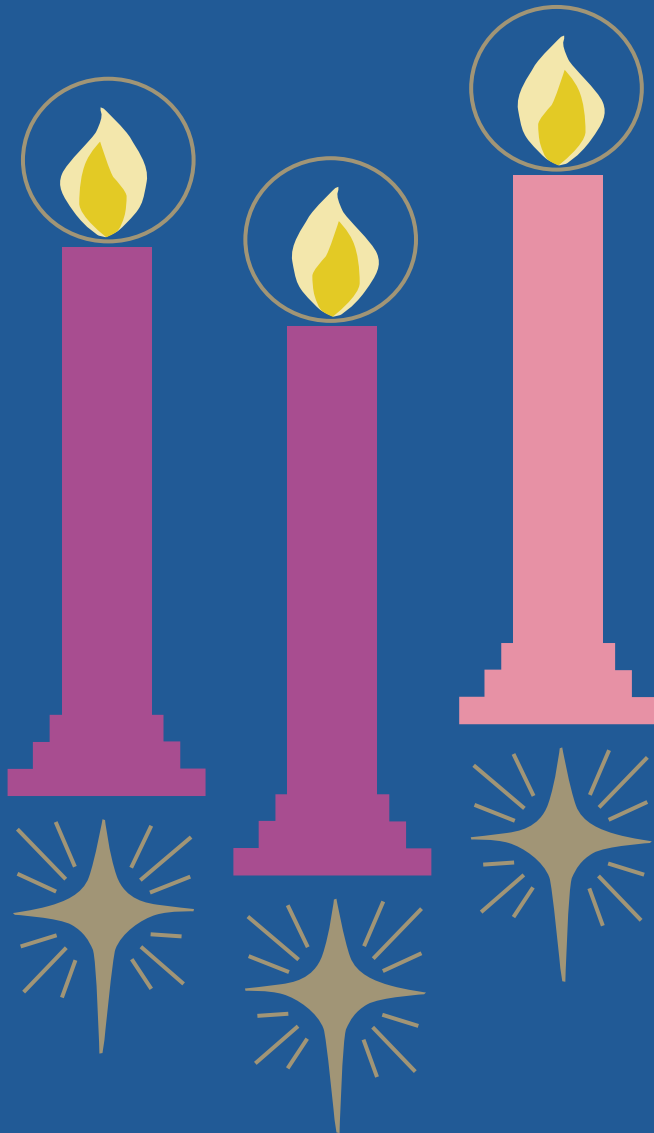


ADVENT

The Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 17, 2023



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

We gather together...

CHORAL INTROIT: *Gaudete*

String Band

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES: *Lauren and Manuel St. Martin*

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 61:1-4, 8-11 (*Old Testament pages 691-692*)

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

PSALM

HYMNAL #849: Psalm 126

SECOND LESSON

I Thessalonians 5:16-24 (*New Testament page 205*)

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

*GOSPEL LESSON

John 1:6-8, 19-28 (*New Testament pages 91-92*)

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. Todd Johnson*

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

HYMN #131: *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERINGS TO GOD

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING

***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** *(for Advent from Isaiah 42:1-9)*

Hear the words of the prophet Isaiah, "See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them." Go forth now with the assurance of God's saving acts in the past, and the promise of redeeming works yet to come. Go live into this hope through the love, justice, and mercy that comes from new life in Christ. Go out in this confidence and faith, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

ALL: AMEN.

POSTLUDE

*Join us after the service for Cocoa and Carols,
downstairs in Fellowship Hall.*

Welcome!

GREETERS: Todd and Donna Larson
READERS: Aaron and Rachael Nilson
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: Lauren St. Martin
USHER: Allan Waite
COFFEE SERVERS: [Cocoa & Carols]
LIVESTREAM: Kendall Magnuson

