

Celebration of Worship
The Third Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2016

9:30 A.M.

We welcome you to worship. We are glad that you are here! Nursery and Preschool care is available if you need it. The Young and Young at Heart are welcomed to the front early on for a special time in the service. Please sign the Friendship Pads so that we can get to know you better, and join us for coffee in the Narthex after the service.

Thought for Reflection

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope!

Romans 15:13

Preparation

WELCOME

RINGING THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE *Chorale on Wake, Awake for Night is Flying* Bach

INTROIT *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* # 9 – verse 2

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight!
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Adoration

* *Please stand, if you are able*

* HYMN OF ADORATION *Prepare the Way* # 13

* PRAYER OF ADORATION

* GOD'S GREETING

Confession

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Holy God, you are always near to those who seek you, for you came among us, and by your Spirit are with us still.

We confess that we do not always sense your nearness, for we wander from your way. We confess that we get so lost in ourselves that we have lost trust, and we fail to see what you are doing with our lives.

Forgive our waywardness and our blindness. Prepare us in this Season of Advent to once again focus our eyes in faith on your promises and your caregiving love and grace. Teach us to walk in newness of life. We pray through Christ, the Incarnate Word made flesh.

Moment of silence for personal confession.

GOD'S LOVE, GRACE AND FORGIVENESS DECLARED

SUNG RESPONSE *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* # 9 – verse 3

O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife and discord cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Proclamation

WORDS FOR THE YOUNG AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

Message *We Light the Third Advent Candle*
The Candle of the Shepherds

Prayer
(Children and Youth are dismissed for Sunday School.)

PRAYER FOR GOD'S SPIRIT

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON *Genesis 1* p. 1

GOSPEL LESSON *John 1* p. 862

SERMON *The Miracle of the WORD*
In the World

Rev. Dr. Eileen Borduin Vanderzwan

