

Celebration of Worship

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2017

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. 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

“If the church will free itself from the shackles of a deadening status quo and, recovering its great historical mission, will speak and act fearlessly and insistently in terms of justice and peace, it will kindle the imagination of [humankind] and fire the souls of people, imbuing them with a glowing and ardent love for truth, justice and peace. People far and near will know the church as a great fellowship of love.”

Martin Luther King, “Strength to Love”

God Invites Us to Worship

WELCOME

RINGING THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE

Sing of Mary

Hebble

We Offer Praise

OPENING SENTENCES

Luke 1:46-50 (MSG)

And Mary praised God and said,
I’m bursting with God-news;

I’m dancing the song of my Savior God.

God took one good look at me, and look what happened—

I’m the most fortunate woman on earth!

What God has done for me will never be forgotten,

the God whose very name is holy, set apart from all others.

His mercy flows in wave after wave

on those who are in awe before him from one generation to the next.

O Come Immanuel! Ransom captive Israel,

and ransom all of us that need you so that we might have life!

* SONGS OF PRAISE *Glorious Day (Living He Loved Me)* Screen

Spirit of the Living God

Praise Team

* GOD’S BLESSING ON OUR WORSHIP

* PRAYER OF ADORATION

God Speaks with a Heart of Love

WORDS FOR THE YOUNG AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

Message

Hope and Wishes?

We Light the Advent Wreath – The Justice Candle

Luke 1:51-55 (MSG)

Reader: This is the Christ who came and continues to come! He bares his arm and shows his strength, scattering the bluffing braggarts.

Reader: This is the Christ who came and continues to come! He knocks tyrants off their high horses, and pulls victims out of the mud.

Reader: This is the Christ who came and continues to come! And because he brings justice, the starving poor sit down to a banquet; the callous rich are left out in the cold.

Reader: This is the Christ who came and continues to come! He embraced his chosen child, Israel; he remembers and piles on the mercies, piles them high.

All: It’s exactly what he promised beginning with Abraham, and exactly what he continues to do right up to now and until he comes again!

The Candle of Justice is lit.

Reader: What does this mean?

Reader: According to God’s promise, justice will flow like rivers.

All: This is the coming of the reign of God! We are called to be busy bringing in that reign, even as we, too, make justice flow. Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly.

* HYMN

While We Are Waiting, Come

Insert

(Children in Preschool through 5th Grade are dismissed for Sunday School.)

PRAYER FOR GOD’S SPIRIT TO MOVE AMONG US

GOSPEL LESSONS

John 1:19-29

p. 862

Luke 1:46-55

p. 832

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON *Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11*

p. 603

SERMON *Living into That Radical Hope in the One Who Comes*

Rev. Dr. Eileen Borduin Vanderzwan

We Respond in Re-Dedication

PRAYER OF RECOMMITMENT

* HYMN *Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light* # 26

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Magnificat* Landes

Chancel Choir

Magnificat, magnificat.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord.

My spirit rejoices in God my Savior

Who has looked with favor upon his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

GOD'S GRACE AND FORGIVENESS GRANTED

Leader: Through Christ we are forgiven and called to a new life –
living into radical Hope.

All: Alleluia!

PRAYERS OF DEDICATION AND PRAISE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

* CAROL *O Holy Night* Insert
 Verses 1 and 3 only

God Sends Us Out to Serve

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

* GOD'S BLESSING AS WE GO OUT TO SERVE

* POSTLUDE