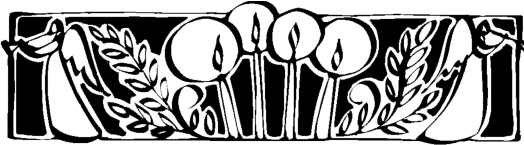


Third
Sunday
in Advent



PRELUDE

Variations on LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING A. Fedak
Comfort, Comfort Now My People P. Manz

GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

ADVENT INTROIT

Prepare the Way of the Lord M. Burkhardt
Prepare the Way, O Zion (#152) BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

CALL TO WORSHIP

***PROCESSIONAL CAROL**

#160 Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn
REJOICE, REJOICE

***INVOCATION AND 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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of wonder and majesty,
we confess we are anxious and afraid.
Sometimes we wonder if You really are at work
amid the chaos we experience in our world.
Forgive us for holding You captive to our expectations
and feeling disappointment when You don't answer
according to our plans.
We long to experience the fullness of Your
everlasting joy,
but we confess we overlook
the moments of subtle delight
in Your daily presence within and among us.
Heal us from our blindness, deafness, and lameness,
that we may fully embrace You as You are.
May we rejoice with joy and singing
as we find You in unexpected places.

(Silence for personal confession and reflection)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***GLORIA PATRI** R. Goodson
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and
Ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

ANTHEM

Waiting for the Promise L. Larson
Greg Schoepp, Clarinet

FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:1-10 Page 735, 1st half of the NRSV Bible
Response to the reading: "Thanks be to God"

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES (The Candle of Joy)

Prepare the Way of the Lord.
We light this candle in joy,
the joy that we have in Jesus, Saviour.
Prepare, then, the Way of the Lord.

***CAROL OF PRAISE**

Herald, Sound the Note of Gladness NEANDER

CHILDREN'S BLESSING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CAROL OF MEDITATION

#155 Comfort, Comfort Now My People GENEVAN 42

SECOND READING

Matthew 11:2-11 Page 11, 2nd half of the NRSV Bible
Response to the reading: "Thanks be to God"

SERMON "Advent in the Dark"

Rev. Dr. Ryan Sato

CELEBRATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory
Prepare the Way, O Zion T. Shaw

***Offertory Response**

So, bring Him incense, gold and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king, to own him;
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone him.
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the Son of Mary!
***Prayer of Gratitude**

***HYMN FOR THE JOURNEY**

#161 People, Look East BESANÇON

THE BLESSING OF THE COMMUNITY

Leader: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of
God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.
People: And also with you.

***Choral Benediction**

"Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall Come" VENI EMMANUEL

***The Sending of the Community**

***Congregational Amen**
The service of the church into the world - - begins again this week

POSTLUDE

Variations and Carillon on PEOPLE LOOK EAST
M.D. Himmelman

***Please stand, as you are able**

We are grateful for those who serve with us today:
Writing & Leading - Rev. Susan Hunter;
Prayers of the People - Grant McIntyre;
Readers - Sandra Beckman, Ken Badley;
Video & Sound Technician - Evan Adnams.

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Rev. Jeremy Keay, Minister of Youth and Outreach
Dawn Stiles, Minister of Children and Families
Dr. Evelyn Grieger, Minister of Music
Jerrold Eilander, Organist/Choir accompanist