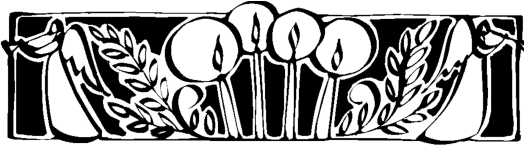


Third
Sunday
in Advent



PRELUDE

Prepare the Way, O Zion

arr. J. Weber

GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

ADVENT INTROIT

O Come, Emmanuel

P.P. Olejar

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 all gifts,
we confess that our hearts are often closed to your love
and the joy only you can give.
We try to find joy through things which give us pleasure.
You remind us that true joy comes from believing
in the joy that you impart into our spirit.
Forgive us when our faith is weak and we search
for concrete ways to ensure that joy is in our life.

God, it is when times are dark and tangible things
are not available to help us believe
that we find ourselves in despair.
Remind us of the well of joy you instill in our hearts
when the night is darkest.

Forgive us for how easily we are discouraged
when joy is not felt or seen in our lives.
God, grant us deeper faith
to access your never-ending joy.

(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

The Yearning (See insert for Anthem text)

C. Courtney

FIRST READING

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Page 981, 1st half of the NRSV Bible

Response to the reading: "Thanks be to God"

***CAROL OF HOPE**

#162 like a child

LIKE A CHILD

ADVENT CANDLE-LIGHTING (The Candle of Joy)

ANTHEM

Advent's Holy Light (See insert)

J. Raney

LITANY

When we think of the countless blessings that fill our lives

Our hearts are filled with joy.

For the warmth of relationships

and the bonds we share with family and friends

Our hearts are filled with joy.

When we pause to appreciate the beauty and wonder of nature

Our hearts are filled with joy.

For the giving and receiving of simple acts of kindness

Our hearts are filled with joy.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

***CAROL OF JOY**

#650 Rejoice in the Lord Always

Anonymous

SECOND READING

Isaiah 12:2-6

Page 711, 1st half of the NRSV Bible

Response to the reading: "Thanks be to God"

SERMON

Dr. Anne Bellamy

(Silence for personal reflection)

CELEBRATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

Wexford Carol

Traditional Welsh Carol

***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**

***CAROL FOR THE JOURNEY**

#208 Oh, How Joyfully

SICILIAN MARINERS

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**

Blessing

S. & L. Dengler

***The Sending of the Community**

***Congregational Amen**

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

POSTLUDE

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

arr. A. Travis

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

We are grateful for those who serve with us today:

Writing & Leading Confession Prayer - Rose Merke;

Prayers of the People - Cheryl Krueger, read by Gary Krueger;

Readers - Emilie Roussis, Carter Bergen;

Video & Sound Technician - Evan Adnams.

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FBC Ministry Team:

Rev. Dr. Allan Effa, Transitional Senior Minister

Rev. Jeremy Keay, Minister of Youth, Young Adults, Outreach

Dawn Stiles, Minister of Children and Families

Dr. Evelyn Grieger, Minister of Music

Jerrold Eilander, Organist/Choir accompanist

*As we attempt to provide comfortable spaces for all and we have some
members who have severe scent sensitivities, we ask that people refrain
from wearing perfumes and colognes on Sunday morning to church.
Thank you for helping us care for one another.*

— FBC Council