

*THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT*  
**MORNING WORSHIP ~ December 16, 2018 ~ 9:30 a.m.**

\* = please stand if you are able ~all songs will be on screens unless otherwise indicated

LUYH = "Lift Up Your Hearts" Red Hymnal · PFAS = "Psalms for All Seasons" Blue Hymnal

**WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP**

Prelude: "Christmas Medley"

Welcome

\*Hymn of Preparation: **Psalter Hymnal #333:1-3 "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"**

**GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP**

\*Call to Worship and Salutation

Pastor: Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!

**People: The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.**

Pastor: On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory;

**People: he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.**

Pastor: I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

**People: At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.**

Zephaniah 3

Pastor: The Lord be with you!

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**People: Amen!**

\*Hymn of Praise: **LUYH #58 "Prepare the Way"**

Lighting the Advent Candles

Choral Hymn of Response: "*Amid the Cold of Winter*"

Rhoades

In the bleak mid-winter, frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone.  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
In the bleak mid-winter, long time ago.

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath spring!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old have sung.  
It came, a blossom bright, amid the cold of winter, when half-spent was the night.

What can I give Him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; Yes, what can I give Him? I would give my heart.

(Young Children are invited to Children and Worship)

**GOD RECONCILES US TO HIMSELF**

Call to Confession

Hymn of Penitence: **LUYH #57:1 "All Earth Is Waiting"**

Assurance of Pardon

Hymn of Assurance: **LUYH #57:2,3 "All Earth Is Waiting"**

God's Will for Our Lives: **Our World Belongs to God, paragraphs 55 & 56** (*What We Believe* p. 99)

\*Hymn of Dedication: **LUYH #78:1-3 "Of the Father's Love Begotten"**

## **GOD COMES TO US THROUGH HIS WORD**

Prayer for Illumination

Reading of Scripture: Luke 3:1-18 (New Testament p. 72)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

Sermon: *CALLED TO A NEW WAY OF LIFE*

\*Hymn of Response: **LUYH #59:1-3 "Comfort, Comfort Now My People"**

## **WE RESPOND IN PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING**

Congregational Prayer

Offertory: *"O Holy Night"*

Offerings: (1) Church General Fund; (2) Christian Education Fund

Adam

## **GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD**

\*Sending Invocation:

Pastor: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

**People: Let your gentleness be known to everyone.**

Pastor: The Lord is near.

**People: Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.**

Pastor: And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4

\*Hymn of Dedication: **LUYH #485:1,4,5,6 "In the Day of the Lord"**

\*Benediction

\*Moment of Meditation

\*Postlude: *"O Come, All Ye Faithful"*

Worship Leader: Dr. Jason Lief • Organist: Carla Nibbelink • Pianist: Kim Vander Berg •  
Candle Lighter: Laurie Miller • Reader: Paul Fessler • Violins: Emily & Kaeley Meyer •  
Adult Choir directed by Peter Kuipers • Accompanist: Danielle Van Zanten •  
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