

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
11:00AM
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2021

*RINGING OF THE BELL

GATHERING *(Please take a moment to sign the attendance pad and pass it on to your neighbor.)*

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE (UMH#214) *Savior of the Nations, Come* J. H. Buttstett

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively):

L: Lord Jesus Christ, we continue to await Your coming.

P: WE WAIT FILLED WITH HOPE ...

L: Knowing Your Light will shine in the darkness.

P: WE WAIT ANTICIPATING YOUR PEACE ...

L: Believing that one day Your peace will fill our world.

P: WE WAIT, EMBRACING YOUR LOVE ...

L: As we reach out to share Your love with our neighbors.

P: WE WAIT WITH JOY!

L: Lord, as we continue to wait, we pray that You might ...

P: COME SOON AND FILL US WITH YOUR LIFE.

ALL: AMEN.

*OPENING HYMN OF PRAISE UMH#240

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Buddy and Lynn Brewer

PRAYER CONCERNS, PASTORAL PRAYER, THE LORD'S PRAYER #895

OFFERTORY (UMH#215) *To A Maid Engaged to Joseph* R. Edwards

*THE DOXOLOGY *(to the tune of Angels from the Realms of Glory)*

ALL CREATION JOIN IN PRAISING, GOD THE FATHER, SPIRIT, SON,
EVERMORE YOUR VOICES RAISING, TO TH' ETERNAL THREE IN ONE.
COME AND WORSHIP, COME AND WORSHIP,
WORSHIP CHRIST THE NEWBORN KING!

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*A PRAYER FOR COURAGE DURING ADVENT (responsively):

L: Holy One, You call us to live in this world as courageous bearers of hope, standing in the face of all that seems to demean life and contradict Your Gospel ...

P: LET US BE COURAGEOUS.

L: As the advertisements turn Christmas into a product, elevating prosperity and the acquisition of material possessions, help us to believe that the Greatest Gift of all is still Your Presence at the center of our lives ...

P: LET US BE GRATEFUL.

L: As families gather and tensions run high, save us from false expectations and exclusivity; save us from holding onto old hurts and past resentments; save us from seeking love instead of giving love ...

P: LET US BE LOVING.

L: Let our celebration of Christmas be characterized by our willingness to risk doing it differently; let our celebration of Christmas be a witness to a deeper source of hope than that which can be wrapped in bright, shiny paper ...

P: LET US CELEBRATE EMMANUEL ... GOD WITH US!

ALL: AMEN.

*GLORIA PATRI #71

WITNESS TO THE WORD: *Christmas Cantata* Lexington UMC Chancel Choir

CHRISTMAS SUITE
A CAROL CANTATA
ARRANGED BY MARK HAYES

- I. MIDNIGHT NOEL
- II. BRING A TORCH, JEANNETTE, ISABELLA
- III. O HOLY NIGHT

LEXINGTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CHANCEL CHOIR
JERRY GATCH, CONDUCTOR
KEN ROBBINS, ORGAN
BETTY GARDINER, FLUTE; ANDREA ERD, OBOE;
COURTNEY JACKSON, VIOLIN; KAMARIA BAXTER, VIOLIN;
JILL HOLT, VIOLA; ADAM RAFFERTY, CELLO

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

**Please stand if you are able*