

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:30AM

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 *Malcolm and Loretta Rhoten Jackson*

ANTHEM *What Child Is This?*
(Katie and Hannah Vitters)

***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**

A WORD TO THE CHILDREN Heather Connor/Video

WITNESS TO THE WORD *Give More ... But How and What?* Rev. L. Kim Eanes

***HYMN OF PRAISE UMH#218** *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

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**

***CLOSING HYMN OF PRAISE UMH#220** *Angels from the Realms of Glory*

***DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING**

***POSTLUDE** *The King Shall Come* American Folk Song

**Please stand if you are able*