

witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal."

²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Sermon Rev.Sharon Carter

Responding in Faith

Affirmation of Faith *Apostles' Creed (ecumenical)* p.14

The Service of Giving
Prayer of Dedication Offering Music

Notes

+Response *Angels We Have Heard on High (refrain only)* #23

The Service of Holy Communion Sharing of Joys and Concerns Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right...who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy holy holy is the Lord of hosts. (2x)

The whole world is full of God's glory.(3x)

Holy is the Lord!

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

Communion of the People

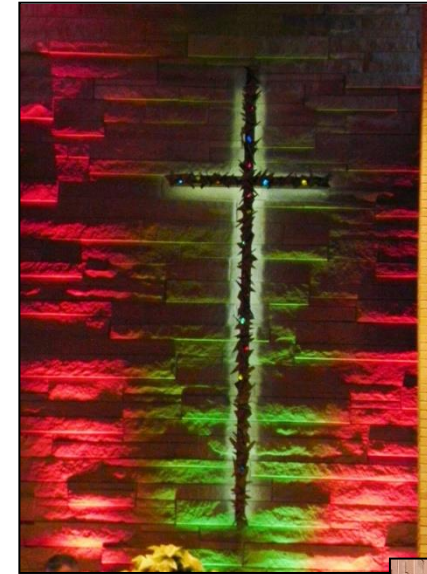
Prayer after Communion

Going into the World

+Hymn *Song of Zechariah* #601

+Charge and Benediction

+Postlude



MISSION

WORSHIP



THE BODY OF CHRIST
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF
ADVENT



Community of Faith Presbyterian Church

December 17, 2017

+Stand as you are able

Leader reads plain type, Congregation reads bold

Preparing Ourselves

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent candle

L: We light this candle as a symbol of God's love for us and our love for one another.

P: For the Lord rejoices over us with gladness and renews us with love. God brings glory to us with singing and turns our shame to praise (three candles are lit.)

Let us pray: **Merciful God, you come into our midst, longing for communion with us, becoming one of us. Break our resistance to life with you, show us the path to just relations, and bring us into your unimaginable peace. We pray this in the name of Christ, who taught us to pray together: *Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.***

+Hymn *Lift Up Your Heads...* #8

Call to Confession

Confession

Let us pray: **Faithful God, you have sent us prophets, but we have not listened. We have turned away from you and each other, tending to our own ways rather than making way for your reign. We have chosen silence rather than proclamation. Forgive us, we pray, and renew your covenant within us. Help us to be witnesses to the renewal of your creation. (moment of silence.)**

Assurance of Forgiveness

L: In the name of the one God who lives and moves among us, we are all forgiven. God has taken away all judgements against us. Thanks be to God! Amen.

P: In Jesus Christ we are all forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

**What does God promise you?
What about our church
community?**

Song *like a child* v.1,2,3 STF2092

The Peace

L: As God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another: the Peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

Anthem *The Prophet John*

Hearing the Word

Prayer for Illumination

God of signs and wonders, we come to your word time and time again seeking understanding. Illuminate our hearts and minds that we might believe this testimony and rejoice in its truth. Amen.

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; ²to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. ⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many

How do we prepare for Christ's return? How do we, like John the Baptist, point the way to Christ's return?

generations.

⁸For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Hymn *Prepare the Way* #13
John 1:6-8, 19-28 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a