

Toll free conference call number (844) 855-4444, access code 654132#

Worship will also be connected through Facebook Live

## Worship



**Sunday, December 11, 2022**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

**11:15 am**

*+Stand as you are able*

## Gathering

### Welcome and Announcements

### Lighting of the Advent Candle

### Centering Music

#### **+Call to Worship**

Leader: It is approaching the time of the angels and the shepherds.

**People: It is the season of our Savior's birth.**

Leader: Let us surround him now with prayer and caroling.

**People: Let us praise his holy name!**

#### **+Hymn** *Joy to the World!* #40

### Call to Confession

Leader: Sometimes it is hard to see God's hand in our world. Often it is easy to lose hope and allow ourselves to turn away from God's desires in the world. But God offers us new life each day. Let us join together as a community to confess our sin, to claim and reclaim the forgiveness and hope that God gives each of us.

### **Prayer of Confession** (Unison followed by silent confession.)

**We call you light, O Lord, yet we walk in darkness. We call you love, yet we turn from those who are unlike ourselves. We call you joy, yet we live in sorrow and unhappiness. Forgive us, dear Lord, and convert us to your way. Let the power of your salvation change us into the people we were meant to be, that your light and love may fill our lives forever and we may praise your name with our whole hearts. Through Jesus Christ.**

### Assurance of Pardon

### Response of Praise

O come let us adore him; O come let us adore him;

O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

## Passing of the Peace

Leader: As God has forgiven us to draw us back into his love, let us live as people who live in this grace, sharing the peace of Christ with one another. May the peace of Christ be with you all.

**Response: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

## Anthem

### Hearing the Word

## Prayer for Illumination

O God, tell us what we need to hear, and show us what we are to do to obey your Son, Jesus Christ.

## Scripture Reading Isaiah 35:1-10

35 The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
 the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
 like the crocus 2 it shall blossom abundantly  
 and rejoice with joy and shouting.  
 The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
 the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
 They shall see the glory of the Lord,  
 the majesty of our God.

3 Strengthen the weak hands  
 and make firm the feeble knees.

4 Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
 "Be strong, do not fear!  
 Here is your God.  
 He will come with vengeance,  
 with terrible recompense.  
 He will come and save you."

5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
 and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;

6 then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
 and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.  
 For waters shall break forth in the wilderness  
 and streams in the desert;

7 the burning sand shall become a pool  
 and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
 the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;  
 the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

8 A highway shall be there,  
 and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
 the unclean shall not travel on it,  
 but it shall be for God's people;  
 no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

9 No lion shall be there,  
 nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
 they shall not be found there,  
 but the redeemed shall walk there.

10 And the ransomed of the Lord shall return  
 and come to Zion with singing;  
 everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
 they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
 and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

**Hymn** *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* #28

**Sermon** *Joy for the Fearful Heart* Rev. Robert Wood

## Responding to the Word

### **Affirmation of Faith** *By John Killinger*

I believe that Christmas is more than a time for parties and ornaments; it is a time for remembering Christ and the incarnation of God's love in human flesh. I believe there are gifts more important than the ones under the Christmas tree, the way we share ourselves with friends, and the industry with which we set about reshaping the world in our time. I believe that the finest carols are often sung by the poorest voices, from hearts made warm by the wonder of the season. I believe in the angels' message that we should not be afraid — that the child of Bethlehem is able to overcome all anxieties and insecurities. I believe in prayer and quietness as a way of appropriating Christmas — that if I wait in silence I will experience the presence of the one born in the manger, for he lives today as surely as he lived then. I believe in going away from Christmas as the wise men went — “another way.” I want to be different when these days are past — more centered, more thoughtful, more caring. And I believe God will help me. Amen.

### **Offering Prayer**

We thank you for your gift of Jesus, light in darkness, Savior of the world, who was born in humility and now reigns in glory. We give in response.

### **Joys and Concerns**

### **Prayers of the People**

### **Celebration of Communion**

## Taking the Word into the World

**+Hymn** *Go Tell It on the Mountain* #29

**+Charge and Benediction**