

# THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 13, 2020

## WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Prelude "Joseph's Song"  
Jan Mauck, Church Pianist

### Welcome and Announcements

\*Opening # 185 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

### \*Call to Worship

By the power of the Spirit of God,

**We walk in the light of Your love, O Lord.**

In times of joy and gladness, sorrow and sadness, hope and despair,

**We walk in the light of Your love, O Lord.**

Called to be witnesses to your love offered to us in Jesus Christ,

**We walk in the light of Your love, O Lord.**

Come, Lord Jesus Christ, come! Enlighten our hearts, minds, and souls that we may see you, love you, and worship you,

**We walk in the light of Your love, O Lord.**

Song # 221 "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

**\*Advent Candle Lighting LOVE:** On the first Sunday of Advent, we lit the candle of HOPE and were reminded to put our hope in God's promises of a peaceful kingdom [Light first candle.] On the second Sunday of Advent, we lit the candle of PEACE knowing our peace with God is secured with the blood of his one and only Son [Light second candle.]. This morning we light the candle of LOVE. Jesus told us, "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). We light this candle to remember God's love, which brings joy to the world and peace on earth [Light second candle.].

### \*Invocational Prayer

Songs of Faith # 189 "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"  
# 188 "Angels, We Have Heard on High"

## WE HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD

A Reading from the Old Testament Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

A Reading from the Psalter Psalm 126

When the Lord restored and brought back the captives to Zion,  
we were like those who dreamed.

**Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy.**

Then it was said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."

**The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.**

Restore our fortunes and bring back our captives, Lord, like streams in the Negev.

**Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy.**

**Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them.**

A Reading from the Apostles 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

\*A Reading from the Holy Gospel John 1:6-8, 19-28

Responsorial # "O Little Town of Bethlehem" Solo

Children's Message (Children dismissed to Junior Church)

Invitation to the Offering, Prayer of Dedication, and Offertory  
Jan Mauck, Church Pianist

The Message "The Garland of Grace and Oil of Gladness"  
The Reverend Doctor Ivan E. Greuter, Senior Minister

## RESPONDING TO THE HOLY SPIRIT IN FAITH & SERVICE

\*Invitation to Faith and Fellowship – If the Spirit of God is

moving you to receive God's forgiving love in Jesus, calling you to be a follower of Jesus in the waters of baptism, or encouraging you to join this Christian Church, please come forward during this song

### RESPONDING TO THE HOLY SPIRIT IN FAITH & SERVICE

**\*Altar Call of Invitation to Faith and Fellowship** – If the Spirit of God is moving you to receive God's forgiving love in Jesus, calling you to follow Christ in the waters of baptism, or encouraging you to join this Christian Church, please come forward during this song.

**Song # 191**      **"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"**

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

**Jan Mauck, Church Pianist**

*\*Please stand if able*

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The celebration of Advent is possible only to those who are troubled in soul, who know themselves to be poor and imperfect, and who look forward to something greater to come.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer



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