

# THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: *GAUDATE!*

DECEMBER 17, 2023

## WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Prelude Janice Hedberg-Boyce, Church Organist

Welcome and Greeting in Jesus' Name Rev. Dr. Ivan E. Greuter

\*Opening Song (Stand) # 203 UM "O Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

\*Call to Worship (Stand)

May the Spirit of the Lord be with us.  
The Light of God is our guide through life.

**Let us follow the Light,**

**The beacon leading to the miracle of birth.**

May the Spirit of Love burn within us.  
Do not quench it's fire!

**Let us hold to what is good,**

**Trusting in the prophecies of old.**

Come to Bethlehem and see!

The Word of the Lord is coming to life!

**We seek the Light of Christ.**

**The God of peace is with us!**

Opening Prayer (Stand)

Song of Faith #192 "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

Lightening of the Advent Candle (Stand) Reader: Sonia Roling

Advent #177 "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" *ES IST EIN ROS'*

## WE HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD

Scripture Reader: Laurie Dewey

The First Reading Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

\*The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ (Stand) John 1:6-8, 19-28

\*Greeting and Sharing Peace with Family and Neighbors (Stand)

Responsorial #181 Old Hymnal "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

The Children's Sermon

**Announcements & Prayers of the Community** OUR FATHER, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever.

**Presentation of Tithes, Gifts, and Donations** - Worshipers are invited to give their tithes, gifts, and offerings to the Lord.



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Offertory

**A Prayer of Illumination & The Message**

**The Reverend Doctor Ivan E. Greuter, Senior Minister**

Notes:

## WE RESPOND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT IN FAITH AND 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.

\*Closing Hymn (Stand) #181 "Joy to The World!" *ANTIOCH*

\*Spoken Benediction

Postlude Janice Hedberg-Boyce, Church Organist

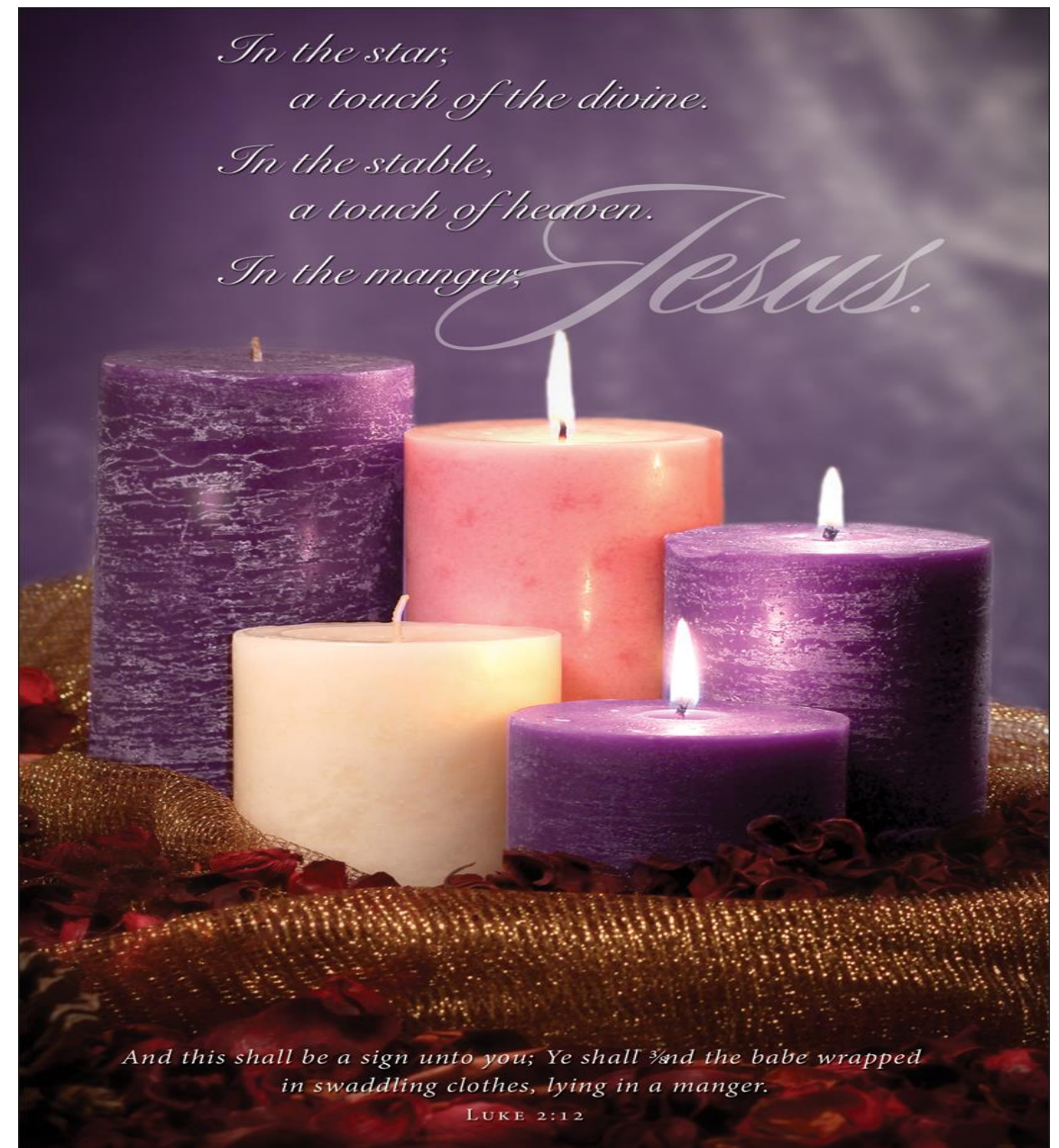
## HOW TO BECOME A FULLY DEVOTED FOLLOWER OF JESUS

**GOOD NEWS!** God loves you and wants to rescue all people from the consequences of evil. The Bible teaches the way to become a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ:

1. **ADMIT** – Admit to God you have done wrong things (sinned) that have hurt God and others. Apologize to God, turn away from harmful behavior, and start doing good things (See Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; 1 John 1:9; Acts 3:19).
2. **BELIEVE JESUS CHRIST DIED FOR YOU AND GOD HAS RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD** – Accept and trust that Jesus is God's one and only Son who died on the cross in your place and give God the credit for raising Jesus from the dead (See Romans 5:8; Acts 4:12; Acts 16:31a; John 3:16; 1 Peter 3:18; John 14:6).
3. **CONFESS JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR LORD** – Make a religious commitment to be a fully devoted follower of Jesus by trusting Him to be your Rescuer, Redeemer (Savior), and Ultimate Leader (Lord). (See Romans 10:9 and 10; Romans 10:13; Matthew 16:24; Luke 9:23)
4. **DEDICATE YOUR LIFE TO THE JESUS WAY** - Tell your family and friends about your new trust in Jesus Christ by coming to the front of the Sanctuary at the end of a worship service to publicly share your decision to be a follower of Jesus (Christian).

**HOW TO JOIN THIS CHRISTIAN CHURCH - COME FORWARD** – Any person professing faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and accepting the Baptist principles, practices, and the covenant of this church may join this Christian church. Persons interested in affiliating should speak with the Pastor or come forward at a congregation meeting. A person may join by Believer's Baptism, Letter of Transfer from a previous Christian church with prior baptism, or a Satisfactory Statement of Christian Faith.

**OUR MISSION** – We love God and we love people by sharing the Good News of God's forgiving, renewing love in Jesus Christ by word and deed to improve the lives of neighbors. West Side Baptist Church is an independent, autonomous Christian church partnering for mission support with like-minded people of faith in our City, County, State, Nation, and World.



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