

ames UCC
United Church of Christ

Just Peace Open & Affirming

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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 15, 2013

*Means those who are able please stand

Songs: SP & P - Sing, Prayer & Praise; NCH - New Century Hymnal

Bold face indicates where the congregation is invited to join in saying the words

Ring the Bell

*Greeting One Another

Advent Candle Lighting - Week 3 "Joy"

Bob & Dinah Kerksieck

Centering Music

"English Advent Carol"

P. Liebergen

Allow the music to help focus your soul for worship as you listen in silence.

*Call to Worship

Leader: Come to worship: Shouting!

People: God lives and moves among us!

Leader: Come to worship: Singing!

People: Mary invites us to join in her song!

Leader: Come to worship: Praying!

People: We offer our confessions, petitions and praise!

Leader: Come to worship: Listening!

People: May our ears be opened to new understanding of your story!

*Gathering Song NCH#119

"My Soul Gives Glory to My God"

Morning Song

Opening Prayer Luke 1:38

Today we give glory and praise to you, O God. We remember Mary's words, "let it be...according to your word", and renew our promise to wait, prepare and witness. Christ comes into our lives in many and wondrous ways, surprising us with love and grace. Let God's will be done in each of us. Amen.

Children's Message

"Journey to the Manger"

Hannah Hannover

Prayers of the People

You are invited to offer joys and concerns aloud for which the whole congregation will pray. If you have something to share, simply raise your hand and a deacon will bring the microphone to you.

Pastoral Prayer

The minister will offer a series of prayers each followed by "Amen." The Lord's Prayer has been moved to the Communion liturgy.

Mission Moment

"The UCC Christmas Offering"

Kim Spangler

Offering of Gifts

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
Liz Morse, flute

Veni Emmanuel/arr.

Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, we offer you our time, talents and treasures. This Advent season we patiently, prayerfully await Jesus' birth and, as your hands, hearts and voices on earth, we dedicate ourselves to your will, just as a young mother did so many years ago. Amen.

Song NCH #122

"Come, O Long-Expected Jesus"

Stuttgart

Scripture Luke 1:39-45

After Mary received God's message (delivered by the angel Gabriel) that she would become pregnant with God's son and that her elderly relative Elizabeth was already pregnant (because with God, nothing is impossible!), she hurried to Judah to visit Zechariah and Elizabeth. Filled with the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth joyously greeted Mary, saying, "Blessed are you and your child! I'm so lucky that the mother of my Lord would visit me! Even my unborn child leaped for joy! Blessed are you, Mary, for believing what the Lord told you."


Choral Song

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”
(from *Anniversary Carols*)

J. Berkey

Scripture Luke 1:46-55

Response:



My soul gives glo - ry to my God. My heart pours out its praise.

Women: My soul proclaims the Lord’s greatness! My spirit rejoices in God my Savior who has looked favorably on me, a lowly servant. From this day all generations shall call me blessed. God has done great things for me; holy is the name of the Lord, who is merciful to those who respect God from generation to generation. **Response**

Men: The Lord’s arm is strong and has scattered the proud in their conceit, cast down the mighty from their thrones and lifted up the lowly. God has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. God has come to the chosen servant Israel’s aid, remembering the promise of mercy made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his children forever. **Response**

Choral Song

“Gospel Magnificat”
Bradley Duckstein, tenor

P. Drennan

Scripture Luke 2:22-32

Women: Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. There was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon who was righteous, devout and filled with the Holy Spirit. The Spirit told Simeon that he would not die until he had seen the Lord’s Christ. Inspired, Simeon went to the temple. When Jesus’ parents brought him into the temple, Simeon took the child in his arms and blessed God, saying:

Men: “Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for I have seen your salvation that you have prepared in all peoples’ presence, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”

Song NCH #148

“What Child Is This?”

Greensleeves

Choral Song

“Jesus, What a Wonderful Child”

Spiritual/
arr. R. Dillworth

Invitation to Communion

Institution Narrative

The Lord’s Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer comes from Matthew 6:9-13. Here is a traditional translation, which we will all pray together.

**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.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Sharing the Bread and Cup

“Traditions of Christmas”

C. Davis

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Since, dear God, in this place, at this table, we have touched, we have tasted, and we have heard the signs of your love for us, grant that we may go away from this house filled with our love for you and overflowing with your love those who are around us and who share our lives. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Benediction (Please remain seated for the choral response.)

Choral Response

“A Christmas Blessing”

J. Purifoy

Sending Music

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

Regent Square/arr.