

Bulletin Information
December 12, 2021
Third Sunday of Advent

We Gather to Worship God

Prelude

Lighting the Candles and Ringing the Bell

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship:

One: Give thanks to the Lord and call upon the holy name of the most high God.

All: The Lord is our strength and our salvation.

One: Proclaim the mercy of the One who comes as one of us.

All: The Lord is our strength and our salvation.

One: Trust and do not be afraid.

All: The Lord is our strength and our salvation.

One: With joy you will draw water from the wells of peace.

All: The Lord is our strength and our salvation. Hallelujah! Amen.

*Morning Prayer

*Hymn *While We Are Waiting, Come* (verse 1) (screen)

*Lighting of the Advent Candle

One: Let us pray.

All: Loving God, you created us for joy-filled hearts and lives. Show us the creative power of Hope. Teach us the Peace that comes from justice. Fill us with the kind of Joy that cannot be contained but must be shared. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

*Hymn *People, Look East* PH-12

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

In your presence, Holy God, we confess that we need repentance. We have broken your commands against idolatry. We do not live in peace with your creation or your people. We have not trusted your word, and are afraid. Forgive us, restore us, and turn our shame into praise...

(Pause for a few moments of silent reflection and personal confession.)

...for the sake of the One who proclaims the good news and for the sake of all the world.

Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Words of Peace

*Congregational Response *Glory Be to the Father* PH #579

We Listen For God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Old Testament Lesson

Zephaniah 3:14-20

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 12:2-6

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

New Testament Lesson

Philippians 4:4-7

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson

Luke 3:7-18

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Fruit and Grain

We Respond to God's Word

*Hymn

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

PH-10

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

Invitation to the Offering

Offering

*Congregational Response

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

*Affirmation of Faith

A Brief Statement of Faith

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,

accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation.

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

We Leave to Serve God

*Hymn	<i>Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!</i>	PH-145
*Charge and Benediction		
*Congregational Response	<i>While We Are Waiting, Come</i>	(screen)
Postlude		

Sermon Text for next Sunday: Luke 1:39-55