

First Presbyterian Church of Springfield
Order of Worship for the Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2020 at 11:15 a.m.

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Rosanna Anderson

Organist: Mike Belote

Worship Leader: Ross Thomas

Welcome and Announcements

We Approach God

Lighting Candles in the Advent Wreath

Reynolds Family

We light these candles as a sign of the light of Christ that shines for all. Advent means arrival. We are preparing for the arrival of the risen Lord Jesus. We are preparing ourselves for the days “when the nations shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore” (Isaiah 2:4).

“The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them” (Isaiah 11:6).

“The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; Like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing” (Isaiah 35:1).

Let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Call to Worship

O come, let us worship and bow down.

Let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker.

For he is our God, and we are people of his pasture, sheep of his hand.

Let us worship God!

Prayer of the Day

Eternal God, you have made us and all things to serve you. Now prepare the world for your rule. Come quickly to save us, so that wars and violence shall end, and all your children may live in peace, honoring one another with justice and love. We pray through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

Hymn of Praise

“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

Glory to God 610

O for a thousand tongues to sing my dear Redeemer’s praise, the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of God’s grace!

The name of Jesus charms our fears, and bids our sorrows cease, sings music in the sinner's ears, brings life and health and peace.

Christ speaks, and listening to his voice new life the dead receive; the mournful waken to rejoice; the poor in heart believe.

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim, to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.

Call to Confession

We have all sinned and fall short of the glory of God. But there is mercy for those who call on the name of the Lord. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession

(from Psalm 51)

Have mercy upon us, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercies, blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity and cleanse us from our sin. For we know our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us. Cast us not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and uphold us with a willing spirit. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news: every valley shall be lifted up and every mountain made low, and the rough places shall be made clear. The glory of the Lord is revealed, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

God Speaks to Us Through God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Gracious God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Holy Spirit, prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 61:1 – 4, 8 – 11

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

New Testament Lesson

Luke 1:39 – 56

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“Make a Joyful Noise”

The Rev. Dr. Rosanna Anderson

We Respond to God's Word

Affirmation of Faith

The Scots Confession 3.06, 3.07

When the fulness of time came God sent his Son, his eternal wisdom, the substance of his own glory, into this world, who took the nature of humanity from the substance of a woman, a virgin, by means of the Holy Ghost. And so

was born the “just seed of David,” the “Angel of the great counsel of God,” the very Messiah promised, whom we confess and acknowledge to be Emmanuel, true God and true man, two perfect natures united and joined in one person. ... We acknowledge and confess that this wonderful union between the godhead and the humanity in Christ Jesus did arise from the eternal and immutable decree of God from which all our salvation springs and depends.

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

All things in heaven and earth belong to God, who is coming in glory to reveal the new creation. Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

Almighty God, thank you for bringing salvation in surprising ways. You faithfully keep your covenant with Abraham and Sarah and their descendants. With Mary, we express deep gratitude for your help through unexpected turns in our lives. Give each of us a humble heart to serve you willingly and joyfully. Use these offerings for the ministries of our church, so that people in our community who are hungry will be fed. We pray in your holy name. Amen.

God Sends Us into the World

Hymn of Dedication

“Let Us with a Gladsome Mind”

Glory to God 31

Let us with a gladsome mind praise the Lord who is so kind: for God’s mercies shall endure, ever faithful, ever sure.

God, with all-commanding might, filled the new-made world with light: for God’s mercies shall endure, ever faithful, ever sure.

All things living God does feed; with full measure meets their need: for God’s mercies shall endure, ever faithful, ever sure.

Let us with a gladsome mind praise the Lord who is so kind: for God’s mercies shall endure, ever faithful, ever sure.

Invitation to Discipleship and Benediction

Dr. Anderson