

Third Sunday of Advent
10:00 a.m. December 15, 2024

Entering God's Presence: **Christmas Carol Medley, Coventry Carol** (harp solo)

Welcome, Life in the Community, and Ritual of Friendship

*Hymn 123 **It Came Upon the Midnight Clear** CAROL

*Expressing Our Joy

Leader: As quietly as the winter steals upon us, the season of joy approaches.

People: We wait for our Redeemer, for God's promise to be fulfilled.

Leader: The day is coming quickly. The God of mercy draws near.

People: Therefore we wait with joy, attentive to all the signs of his coming.
(Congregation seated.)

Introit (harp solo) **Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming** German Carol

Invitation to Self-Examination and Confession of Our Need for God's Forgiveness (unison)

God, with unhurried gentleness you draw near us, bidding us lift our eyes to the infinite stars and open them to ordinary wonders all around us. We see the waning sun, the dazzle of holiday display, each other's weary faces, and we know that we have seen this all before. We cannot claim a breathless anticipation of the birth of your Son. From the prophet's good news to the shepherd's joyful witness, we have heard it all before. The season is familiar and holds no surprises. God, remind us that your power and love are both ancient and ever new. Help us to recognize the love borne into the world at each moment. Then with glad hearts may we welcome your Son, before whom even the desert blooms and rejoices.

Time of Silence and Personal Confession

Musical Response **O Come, O Come Emmanuel** (Hymn 88; vs. 7) VENI EMMANUEL

*O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle

*Hymn 97 **Watchman, Tell Us of the Night** ABERYSTWYTH

Micah 6:6-8 (NRSV) [You will find the text on page 816 in the pew Bible.]

Anthem (choir & harp) **Call to Advent** Jerome Williams

Luke 2:8-20 (NRSV) [You will find the text on page 54-55 in the pew Bible.]

Sermon **May The Joy of Christ Fill Your Heart!** The Rev. Vance E. Polley

*Affirmation of Faith and **Gloria Patri** (No. 581)

Christ Jesus though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient unto death—even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen. (Phil. 2:5-11)

Recognition of Reece Humphreys' Ministry

Ministry of Prayer [Text prayer requests to: (843) 437-4239]

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(In the *Offering*, we dedicate our lives and a portion of the resources God has entrusted to us. Your gifts may be dedicated online, by mail, or in-person.)

Offertory **Sussex Carol** (Traditional English Carol) arr. Dale Wood (harp & organ)

*At the Presentation **Doxology** (No. 606) OLD HUNDREDTH

Prayer of Dedication, concluding with *The Lord's Prayer*

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.

*Hymn 134 **Joy to the World** ANTIOCH

*Benediction and Choral Benediction **While We Are Waiting, Come** (Hymn 92)

*Going Out into the World **Carol of the Bells** (harp solo)

*Those that are able, please stand.

We welcome harpist Holly Avesian to worship this morning.