

The 3rd Sunday of Advent 2018

THE GATHERING

Ring the 1887 Bell

Handbell Processional “Matins” Cynthia Dobrinski

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude “Partita on *From Heaven Above*” setting, David Schack

Lighting of the Advent Candle

One: We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

All: **Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

* 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.**

* Opening Hymn #96 “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

Prayer of the Day (unison)

Merciful God, you come into our midst longing for communion with us, becoming one of us. Break our resistance to life with you, show us the path toward just relations, and bring us into your unimaginable peace; in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Call to Confession

One: As John the Baptist called the people to repent, as Jesus calls us now, we turn to the one who is both judge and savior, trusting that repentance opens the door to new life, and that peace beyond all measure has been promised to us. Let us confess our sins.

* Please stand as you are able

Bold type indicates text to be spoken or song to be sung by the congregation

Prayer of Confession (unison)

The Lord is near. 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 we are afraid. Forgive us, restore us, and turn our shame into praise, for the sake of the One who proclaims the good news and for the sake of all the world. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

One: In the name of the one God who lives and moves among us, you are forgiven. The Lord has taken away the judgments against you. Do not worry. Live in peace.

* Response #126 “Jesus, Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child”

* The Passing of the Peace

One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.** (*Take a moment to greet each other with the peace of Christ*)

Hymn #487 “These Treasured Children” vs. # 1

Time for Young Disciples

Rev. Meggan Farwell

All: **You’re beautiful! God loves you! And we love you too!**

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination (unison)

Holy Word, you are our guide and ultimate assurance. By your Holy Spirit, open us to your promises and commands and shower us again with the fire of your love. Amen.

Scripture Reading Zephaniah 3:14-20 Pew Bible – OT p.877

Scripture Reading Philippians 4:4-7 Pew Bible – NT p.198

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Handbell Anthem “Reflections on a Huron Carol” arr. Derek K. Hakes

Scripture Reading Luke 3:7-18 Pew Bible – NT p.60

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon “Erase and Restore” Rev. Dr. Luke Farwell

THE RESPONSE TO THE WORD

* Affirmation of Faith A Christmas Affirmation (*see projection*)

* Hymn #88 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” vs. # 1, 2, 3 & 5

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Offering

Musical Offertory "The First Nowell" settings, Young/Held

* Doxology #607

* Prayer of Dedication (*unison*)

Gracious God, in gratitude for all that you have given us, we bring our tithes, offerings, and labor to help feed a world hungry for healing and hope; for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE SENDING OUT

Welcome New Members

* Closing Hymn #134 "Joy to the World"

* Charge & Benediction

* Postlude "Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light"
setting, Benjamin M. Culli



*Following worship, deacons will be available to pray with you
in the prayer room if needed.*

Our beautiful chancel flowers are given by the LAC and
the proud family of Logan Van De Hei in honor of him leaving for the Air Force.

Assisting in Worship This Morning

Greeters: The Macklem Family

Liturgist: Kathy Gutzman

Acolytes: Rhett & Ava Mehlberg

Ushers: Jon & Bryce Motquin and Tom & Martha Bayer

Organist: Julie Mackey

Handbell Director: Ted Huebbe

Elder of the Month: Ted Huebbe

Deacons of the Month: Mike Kettner & Debbie Pahl

Tech Crew: Mark Young, Ted Huebbe, Steve Marks, & Joe Williams

Fellowship: Cindi Barnett & Diane Betz

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Meet with Pastor by Appointment

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December 16, 2018