

DECEMBER 17, 2017
Third Sunday of Advent

Please respond with words in **bold** print.

*Please stand if comfortably able

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY:

THE BELLS CALL US INTO SILENT REVERENCE.

THE CANDLES ARE LIT TO LIGHT OUR WAY INTO WORSHIP.

PRELUDE: “At the Manger” Eugene McCloskey

LESSONS AND CAROLS

OPENING SENTENCES: Psalm 96 from the NRSV Reader #1

OPENING HYMN: “Once in Royal David’s City” #145

**Once in royal David’s city stood a lowly, cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for a bed;
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.**

**We at last shall meet our Savior, fount of God’s redeeming
grace,
For that Child so dear and gentle reigns within a glorious
place;
Leading all God’s children on to the heaven where saints
have gone.**

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19 Reader #1

*Adam and Eve disobey God’s command and disrupt the order and
goodness of creation.*

CAROL: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" All 4 verses

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by:
Let in thy dark streets shineth the Everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of
wondering love.
O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth!

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven;
No ear can hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still the dear Christ
enters in.

O Holy Child of Bethlehem! Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

SECOND LESSON: Genesis 22:15-18 Reader #1

*God promises that, through Abraham, all the peoples of the world
will be blessed.*

**CAROL: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" 1st and 2nd verses
only**

O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear,
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, thou day-spring, come and cheer our spirits by thine
advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark
shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

THIRD LESSON: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 Reader #1

The people who walk in darkness receive the promise of the Messiah.

CAROL: “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” 1st and 2nd verses

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold

“Peace on the earth, goodwill to men from heaven’s all
gracious King!”

The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

For lo! The days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold.

When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors
fling,

And the whole world give back the song which now the
angels sing.

FOURTH LESSON: Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9 Reader #2

The Messiah will come from the root of Jesse to restore the peace of creation.

CAROL: “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” #127

Lo, how a Rose e’er blooming from tender stem has sprung!

O Jesse’s lineage coming as saints of old have sung.

It came a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.

Isaiah had foretold it, the Rose I have in mind,

With Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.

To show God’s love aright, she bore to us a Savior,

When half spent was the night.

FIFTH LESSON: Luke 1:26-35, 38 Reader #2

An angel appears to Mary and announces that she will bear a holy child.

CAROL: “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Hark, the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinner reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark, the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn Kind."

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the Everlasting
Lord!

Late in time behold Him come to the earth from heaven's
home;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; Hail the incarnate Deity,
Please as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark, the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of peace! Hail, the Son of
Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second
birth.
Hark, the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn Kind."

SIXTH LESSON: Luke 2:1-7 Reader #3

*Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem, where Mary gives birth to
her child.*

CAROL: "Away in a Manger" All three verses.

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.

SEVENTH LESSON: Luke 2:8-16 Reader #3

Angels appear to shepherds in the fields and announce the birth of the Messiah.

CAROL: “Angels We Have Heard on High”

**Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night,
And the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight.
Glo – ria in excelsis Deo. Glo – ria in excelsis Deo.**

Shepherds, why this Jubilee? Why these songs of happy cheer?

What great brightness did you see? What glad tidings did you hear?

Glo – ria in excelsis Deo. Glo – ria in excelsis Deo.

**Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.**

Glo – ria in excelsis Deo. Glo – ria in excelsis Deo.

EIGHTH LESSON: Matthew 2:1-11 Reader #3

Magi from the East come seeking the Messiah and offer gifts to the baby Jesus

CAROL: “We Three Kings of Orient Are”

**We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar.
Field and fountain, moor and mountain – following yonder star.**

**O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright.
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

**Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and Sacrifice.
Alleluia, alleluia! Earth to heav’n replies.**

**O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright.
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

NINTH LESSON: John 1:1-14 Pastor Rosemary

The Word of God becomes flesh and lives among us, full of grace and truth.

***CAROL: "Silent Night, Holy Night" #134**

**Silent night! holy night! All is calm, all is bright;
'Round yon virgin mother and Child, Holly Infant so tender
and mild;
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night! holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing
Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born. Christ the Savior is born.**

**Silent night! holy night! Child of God, love's pure light,
Radiant beams from your holy face bring the dawn of
redeeming grace;
Jesus Christ at your birth, Jesus Christ at your birth.**

PRAYER:

**LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed it
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**

INVITATION TO SHARE:

OFFERING OF GIFTS, TITHES AND SELVES

OFFERTORY: "What Child is This?" Robert J. Hughes

***DOXOLOGY: # 780**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION: Holy One, whose heart abounds with gifts, receive this offering as sign of our intention to live surrounded by your mercy, inspired by your Spirit, open to the joy of your presence, hospitable to one another, and generous toward your world. Amen.**

***CLOSING HYMN: “Joy to the World”**

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King; Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing, And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns:
Let men their songs employ; while fields and floods, rocks,
hills, and plains
Repeat the sound joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove the glories of His
righteousness,
And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.**

**DURING THE HYMN THE LIGHT IS EXTINGUISHED AND
CARRIED OUT INTO THE WORLD.**

***BENEDICTION:**

**THE BELLS RING AS WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD, TO
SPREAD THE JOY OF CHRIST TO ALL.**

POSTLUDE: “The Celestial Choristers” James Moffatt