

Third Sunday of Advent

Prelude

Let us turn our hearts and minds to a time of silent reflection and prayer.

Welcome and Announcements

"Lighting of the Advent Wreath"

Introit

*CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: From the stillness of the blessed night of Jesus' birth**People:** We come before You, O God, in praise and thanksgiving.**Leader: From the astounding news sung to the shepherds****People:** We thank You for the gift of Your Son.**Leader: Let our hearts keep the joy and peace of the Advent Season.****People: Let our spirits rejoice in God's presence with us.**

Leader: Fill us with Your love, O God.

All: Pour your peace upon us that we may be bearers of Your Good News. Amen!

*Hymn of Praise

Celebration Hymnal # 758

"Lift Up Your Heads"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION:

Immanuel. God with us, truly in this Advent season we celebrate that you are not hidden in some faraway cloud, but you chose to be with us in our lives. In the midst of lists and rush, you are with us as a song that echoes in our minds, as the light of a candle, as a card from a friend. They are signs of your presence. We turn to you this Advent season and pray that you would birth joy and healing, blessing and hope in us. In this hour of worship, we ask that something wonderful will begin with us — something surprising and holy. May your hand be upon us. Let your love fill us. Let your joy overwhelm us. Let our longing for you be met on a coming holy night. Immanuel with us once again. Amen.

Anthem

Old Testament Lesson

Psalm 103: 8-18

New Testament Lesson

Hebrews 9: 13-15

*Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen, Amen.

Sermon

Rev. William Kren

"The Advent Season Defined"

Hymn of Reflection

Celebration Hymnal # 251

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

Pastoral Prayer

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.

Choral Response

Worship in Tithes and Offerings

*Doxology

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

*Offertory Prayer

*Hymn of Going Forth

Celebration Hymnal # 240

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

"Emmanuel"

Emmanuel, Emmanuel
His name is called Emmanuel;
God with us, revealed in us;
His name is called Emmanuel.

*Postlude

*We invite you to stand if you are able.