

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
Third Sunday of Advent
December 12, 2021

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES/CALL TO WORSHIP**

from Isaiah 2:4

Leader: We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ. As the Lord has promised, in days to come the wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom;

All: like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

Leader: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

All: Let us worship God.

***HYMN**

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

85, V.1-3

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

A voice is crying out in the wilderness: Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of tenderness and love,
breathe your grace into our lives.

Forgive our wandering ways,
and guide us along your paths of peace.

When we lose our way,
and forget the reason and purpose of this season,
carry us back to you.

Lead us up to that high mountain of faith and hope,
that we might truly proclaim:

"Here is our God!"

In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

"Comfort, O comfort my people," says our God. You have served your term. Your penalty is paid. Believe the Good News of the Gospel: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

***GLORIA PATRI**

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

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We encourage you to quietly reflect with joy on God's mercy as the music plays.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

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

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:1-5

Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.
See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.
See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

The Word of God for the people of God!
Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

With Open Hearts

*Susie Lewis, Sue Poulos,
Doug Rose, Steve Thiel*

SECOND READING

Isaiah 55:6-13

Seek the LORD while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.
For you shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

Rev. Ben Shaw

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

CALL TO OFFERING

Per COVID-19 safety measures, we will not pass the offering plate for some time. As you feel called, you may leave your offering in the plate in the Gathering Room or donate online at MPChurch.net.

***DOXOLOGY**

In place of singing aloud, we encourage you to ponder God's blessings in your life as the music plays.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

... And now hear as we pray as Jesus taught us:

**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**

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

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CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

And now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all this day, and unto your life eternal. Amen.