

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Northside Presbyterian Church – December 13, 2020

GATHERING MUSIC – *“Lift Up Your Heads”* – Pat Fullen

WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

INTROIT – *“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”* (v. 5)

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather in this holy place to bear witness to the Light.

The love of God shines upon us and reveals the truth of God’s mercy.

We gather in this holy place to bear witness to the Truth.

The truth of our gospel is good news for the oppressed and a balm for the brokenhearted.

HYMN – *“The Snow Lay on the Ground”* (116, v. 1-2)

**1 The snow lay on the ground; the stars shone bright,
when Christ our Lord was born on Christmas night.**

Venite adoremus Dominum. Venite adoremus Dominum.

Venite adoremus Dominum. Venite adoremus Dominum.

**2 ‘Twas gentle Mary maid, so young and strong,
who welcomed here the Christ-child with a song.**

She laid him in a stall at Bethlehem; the ass and oxen shared the roof with them.

Venite adoremus Dominum. Venite adoremus Dominum.

ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING – Sandi and Jack Webster

God calls us to worship today as followers of his Son, Jesus Christ. We light these candles as a symbol of the coming light of our Messiah.

Jesus asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Christ.” (Mark 8:29)

Each day the world asks us the same question Jesus asked Peter: Who is coming?

With Peter, we declare that Christ, the Son of God, is coming.

When Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, “Tell us, when will this be, and what will be that sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?” (Mark 13:3-4)

With the disciples, we wonder when Christ will come.

Jesus comes to this world filled with pain, suffering and death.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’”

With John the Baptist, we call to our world, "Prepare the way of the Lord."

As we wait, we celebrate his first coming as a baby and his life of sacrifice.

But even more, we look forward to his glorious second coming when he will make all things new.

CHIME RESPONSE

GOSPEL – John 1:6-8, 19-28 – Sandi Webster

OFFERING OF MUSIC – *"Winds Through the Olive Trees"*- Simple Gifts

OLD TESTAMENT – Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

SERMON – *"Good News for Mourners"*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN – *"Love Has Come" (110, v. 1-3)*

**1 Love has come: a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.**

**2 Love is born! Come, share in the wonder. Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother; what is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers. Love! Love! Jesus, Emmanuel.**

**3 Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!**

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG (92)

**While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.**

Please be in prayer for:

Revathi Balakrishnan
Susan Dickerson
Bonnie Church
Drew Taylor

Edd Stoops
Mary Lough
Doug Rathjen
Deborah Long

The Hale/McMahan family
Lucian and Marj Robinson
Floyd Long

Today's musicians: Marya Katz, Charles Bostian, Ann Marie Conner, Jack Webster, Pat Fullen, Hand Chimes Choir
Video Technician – Marshall Chaney