

Order of Worship
Third Sunday of Advent
December 15, 2019 10:00am

MORNING MEDITATION

Judge nothing before the appointed time! Wait until the Lord comes! He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of people's hearts. (Corinthians 4:5)

PRELUDE "Sonata Op.10 Nrl:Adagio (Beethoven)

Nadine Shank
Church Choir
Nancy Harding

INTROIT "All Earth Is Waiting"

WORDS OF WELCOME

******CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: In the midst of waiting, God sends us a wonderful invitation,

People: A lit candle in the window bids us to come home.

Leader: The wreath on the door welcomes us to come in!

People: The sounds of people talking and the hustle and bustle of life calls us to be engaged and be a part of it all.

Leader: Let us come and worship God and be a part of God's grace.

People: Let us receive God's gift in our hearts and worship Him with great joy.

OPENING HYMN "Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

UMH # 203

INVOCATION

Leader: O great and wondrous God, come into our presence as we gather to celebrate your love and grace.

People: Instill in us the desire to learn to love rightly and fairly. Include us in your family, O Lord, so that we can be part of life that is greater than ourselves.

Leader: Come to us, O God in ways that only you understand, so we may discover the overwhelming joy of your gift to your Son.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING (Leslie and Alexis Morrey)

1st Reader: As we gather around the Advent Spray, we rejoice that Christmas is a time of gratitude and prayer. We relight the candles of HOPE and LOVE [relight the 2 purple candles] for we understand how waiting can strengthen us.

2nd Reader: As we sing songs of joy and our hearts open to God's love, help us to pause in wonder. Christmas is the time to worship. It is a time to draw near to God, and to family. [light the pink candle] Let us pray together-----

ALL: O God help us to remember that true joy comes from serving one another. When the hungry are filled with good things, the lowly are lifted up and relationships are restored. As the love of God flows through us, out into the world, it gives birth to a full sense of JOY that guides our steps and is such an integral part of our being..

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. David F. Hurst

Leader: O God of the star and the sign, lead us into the depths of mystery. Guide us in the way of forgiveness and place in us songs of joy.

People: O God of this holy place and God of our journey walk with us in our times of trouble, hold us when we tremble and cry, and be with us when we face our darkness. Dwell in us in this holy moment. In the name of the Babe of Bethlehem, forgive us our sins. Amen

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just. Our Lord will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **People: Thanks be to God!**

***** PASSING OF THE PEACE**

SPECIAL MUSIC "People, Look East"

Church Choir

PSALTER READING: Psalm 146 (Red Hymnal pgs. 858-859)

Nancy Harding

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Rev. David F. Hurst

Pastoral Prayers

*****Response "Glory Be to the Father"**

SCRIPTURE READING/First Lesson: Isaiah 35: 1-10

Nancy Harding

(Chair Bible (Old Testament) pg. 663)

*****HYMN OF PREPARATION "I Want to Walk as a Child"**

UMH #206

SCRIPTURE READING/Second Lesson: Matthew 11:2-11

(Chair Bible (New Testament) pg. 11)

Rev. David F. Hurst

SERMON "The Kingdom is a Family Affair"

Thanksgiving and Sacrament of Holy Communion

We celebrate an open Communion Table

MINISTRY OF GIVING "Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Church Choir

*****Doxology**

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God the source of all gifts; Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts Praise the Spirit! Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!"

Prayer of Dedication

*****PARTING HYMN: "Angels from the Realms of Glory"**

UMH # 220

BENEDICTION [by Robert Louis Stevenson]

All: Beyond the darkness, there is a star.

Beyond the noise, there is angel song.

Beyond the rush, there is a wondrous stillness.

May the God of Advent days,

Touch your lives with hunts of a holy night.

POSTLUDE Sing We Now of Christmas (Douglas Wagner)

Nadine Shank

Altar Flowers this morning are in memory of Alvin Cooper given by Art and Judy Cooper.

Attendance for Sunday, December 8th - Adults 23 Children 0

Church Happenings for Week of December 15th

Sunday, December 15th - Morning Worship (Communion) 10:00am
Sunday, December 15th - "Living Nativity" 4 - 6pm
Monday, December 16th - Cot Shelter Meal
Wednesday, December 17th - Office Hours (8:30am - 1:30pm)

Church Happenings for Week of December 22nd

Sunday, December 22nd - Christmas Sunday Worship 10:00am
Tuesday, December 24th - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 6:00pm
Wednesday, December 25th - CHRISTMAS DAY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COT SHELTER - It is the turn of this church to prepare a meal for the cot shelter for Monday, December 16th (tomorrow). Please see Sherry if you can help in any way.

"LIVING NATIVITY" TODAY!!! (4 - 6PM)

Come and enjoy a wonderful presentation of a short story of the "Birth of Jesus the Christ Child" You will be led along a path to hear the story given by our "Biblical Characters", all leading you to the Stable Creche'. Following your walk you may have a refreshment in Fellowship Hall and Children may make a lluminary to bring home with them. So, bring your family, friends, neighbors.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Tuesday, December 24th at 6:00pm we will have a Christmas Eve Candlelight service of Scripture and Song. A few scripture readers are still needed. Sign up is on Usher's Table.

BUSTAMANTE FUND - This is an ongoing request for donations.

I am pleased to let you know that we have mailed a check (which was collected over the last six weeks) to the Bustamante family and we are trying again to build the fund up to this amount again so we will be able to send out another check around the middle of January. Envelopes are available on the Usher's Table.

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"OPEN HEARTS, "OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS"



Rev. David F. Hurst, Pastor
Music Director, Pam Kukucka

"Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."