

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO**

December 12, 2021

10:00am

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

GATHERING

PRESERVICE MUSIC

“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”

“To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary”

“Prepare the Way, O Zion”

“Once in Royal David’s City”

“The Snow Lay on the Ground”

“The First Nowell”

“Still, Still, Still”

“Love Came Down at Christmas”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING OF PRAYER REQUESTS

LIGHTING THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

(Wayne & Jody Bevers, & Jo Williams)

Jesus says: I am coming soon.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. As the Lord has promised, in days to come: The nations shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks;

nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

(light the first candle)

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling will lie down together, and a little child shall lead them.

(light the second candle)

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom;

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

(light the third candle)

Let us walk in the light of the Lord. **Amen.**

CHIMES

PRELUDE

“Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying” (Nicolai-Bach)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 12:2-3

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon the holy name of the most high God.

The Lord is our strength and our salvation.

Proclaim the mercy of the One who comes as one of us.

The Lord is our strength and our salvation.

Trust and do not be afraid.

The Lord is our strength and our salvation.

With joy you will draw water from the wells of peace.

The Lord is our strength and our salvation. Hallelujah! Amen.

*OPENING HYMN #611

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” (Beethoven)

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Merciful God, you come into our midst longing for communion with us, becoming one of us. Break our resistance to life with you, show us the path toward just relations, and bring us into your unimaginable peace; in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

As John the Baptist called the people to repent, as Jesus calls us now, we turn to the one who is both judge and savior, trusting that repentance opens the door to new life, and that peace beyond all measure has been promised to us. Let us confess our sins.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Lord is near. In your presence, Holy God, we confess that we need repentance. We have broken your commands against idolatry. We do not live in peace with your creation or your people. We have not trusted your word, and we are afraid. Forgive us, restore us, and turn our shame into praise, for the sake of the One who proclaims the good news and for the sake of all the world. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

In the name of the one God who lives and moves among us, you are forgiven. The Lord has taken away the judgments against you. Do not worry. Live in peace.

In Jesus Christ you are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy Word, you are our guide and ultimate assurance. By your Holy Spirit, open us to your promises and commands and shower us again with the fire of your love. **Amen.**

READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS

Psalm 146

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Zephaniah 3:14–20

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Philippians 4:4–7

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

QUARTET

“Manger Songs” (Arr. Larson)
(Wayne Bevers, Bob Entrop, Mary Hubbard, Wendy Lunsford)

(Please stand for the reading of the Gospels if you are able)

***READING FROM THE GOSPELS**

Luke 3:7–18

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

***HYMN #96**

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry” (Handbuch)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The Apostles’ Creed

**I believe in God,
the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

MEDITATION ON THE STEWARDSHIP OF TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURE

“One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.” (Proverbs 11:24-25)

When we fail to cultivate generosity, it is easy to isolate ourselves from the natural give-and-take of human relationships, and so we experience no give or take. Giving is a way of opening ourselves to opportunity. When we choose to be God’s opportunity of help and love for another person, we place ourselves in God’s design for giving and receiving from one another. (tithe.ly)

MUSICAL OFFERING *“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”* (Broughton)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

Gracious God, in gratitude for all that you have given us, we bring our tithes, offerings, and labor to help feed a world hungry for healing and hope; for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

OUR 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 and ever. Amen.

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN #88** *“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”* (Plainsong)
(verses 1, 2, 3, 4)

***MOMENT OF SILENCE TO PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH**

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

***POSTLUDE** *“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”*

*Please stand if you are able where asterisks are printed.

Words in **bold print** are spoken by the congregation.