



## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 13, 2020

Third Sunday in Advent

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

#### CALL TO WORSHIP- based on Psalm 50:1-3, 6

Liturgist: Sharon Bryant

Leader: The mighty God summons the earth  
from the rising of the sun to the place where it sets.

**People: Our God comes and will not be silent.  
God calls, and we respond to his love.**

Leader: The heavens declare God's righteousness.

**People: We tell out God's glories!**

Leader: Offer up to God your thanksgiving.

**People: And our God will hear us, save us, and stay with us forever.** Leader: A voice cries:

**People: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God."**

Leader: As we worship today,

**People: let us prepare to welcome God's dramatic work in our midst,  
in our hearts, in our community, and in all of creation.**

Leader: Let us worship God.

#### \*HYMN #152

*1 Angels we have heard on high  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply  
Echo back their joyous strains.*

*Refrain:*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
Say, what may the tidings be  
Which inspire your heavenly song. [Refrain]*

#### \*OPENING PRAYER

#### \*HYMN #136

*1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh.*

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

*3 Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. [Refrain]*

*4 See within a manger laid  
Jesus, Lord of heaven and earth!  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,  
Sing with us our Saviors birth. [Refrain]*

*On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry  
Awake and listen, for he brings  
glad tidings of the King of kings!*

2 *Let every heart be cleansed from sin:  
make straight the way for God within,  
and so prepare to be the home  
where such a mighty guest may come.*

4 *To heal the sick, stretch out your hand  
and make the fallen sinner stand;  
shine out, and let your light restore  
earth's own true loveliness once more.*

3 *For you are our salvation Lord,  
our refuge and our great reward.  
Without your grace we waste away  
like flowers that wither and decay.*

5 *To you, O Christ, all praises be,  
whose advent sets your people free,  
whom with the Father we adore,  
and Holy Spirit, evermore.*

## GUIDED PRAYER

### \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - Westminster Larger Catechism Q.47

Leader: How did Christ humble himself in his conception and birth?

**People: Christ humbled himself in his conception and birth in that being from all eternity the Son of God in the bosom of the Father, it pleased him in the fullness of time to become the son of man, born of a woman from a poor family and into conditions that were even worse than ordinary. Amen.**

## LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

### ANTHEM

**Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

**John Carter**

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

### WORSHIPING GOD WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

#### Offertory

**\*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.**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

### SCRIPTURE:

John 1: 6-9

*Pastor: The Word of the Lord*

***People: Thanks be to God***

### SERMON:

***"The Witness of the Incarnation"***

***Incarnatio***

*"He himself was not the light;  
he came only as a witness to the light." — John 1:8*

**\*CLOSING HYMN #151**

*Refrain:*

*Go tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born.*

*1 While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens  
There shone a holy light. [Refrain]*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE**

*Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

*2 The shepherds feared and trembled  
When lo! above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed our Savior's birth. [Refrain]*

*3 Down in a lowly manger  
The humble Christ was born,  
And God sent us salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn. [Refrain]*