



## Sunday, December 13, 2020 ~ Third Sunday in Advent

9:30 a.m. Blended Worship (Sanctuary)

### Way of the Week #1

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**1. BE THIRD.** God is first, others are second, and you're third. Don't just think about your own interests, be interested in others. Don't think less of yourself, just think of yourself less and others more.

- *Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 2: 3-5)*

**Ideas for Action:** Ask God, "Whom can I serve today?" Look for an opportunity to be last... in line, the last to speak, or the last to be served.

### Welcome and Work of God's People

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Rev. Spencer

### Music in Preparation for Worship

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#### **Grand Plein Jeu (from "First Magnificat")**

Joel Krott, Organ

Clarenbault

### Call to Worship & Lighting of the Advent Candles

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Rev. Spencer

We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

On this third Sunday of Advent, hear these promises from God's Word from Isaiah:

"Every valley shall be lifted up and every mountain and hill made low;

**The uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain."**

Come, Lord Jesus, your joy is our strength. Let us worship God.

### Prayer of Adoration

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Rev. Spencer

## Prayer of Confession

Kelly LePenske

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Lord, we confess that we are often like Zechariah — we aim to be faithful and open to your Spirit, yet sometimes we simply go through the motions. We become dulled by the weariness of life, by frustrations, sorrows, and dreams deferred. Forgive us when we forget that we worship a living God. Forgive us for the ways we doubt and overlook your holy presence in our midst. Help us to respond to you with fresh eyes, hearts and hands.

## Reflection

Gwen Wilkie

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Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
Dear Desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.

*Time for personal prayers of confession before God*

## Assurance of Forgiveness

Kelly LePenske

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Together we echo the hope-filled message of the angel Gabriel: "Don't be afraid! God sent me to bring you good news." And the good news is this:

**God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. We are forgiven and freed to live new lives for Jesus. Let it be so!**

## Anthem

### ***O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?***

Mengel

Anna Lawlor, Cali Barton, Grace Rykaczewski, Lauren Clark, Gwen Wilkie, Nate Wilkie,  
Sam Scheibe, Adam Connor  
Karen Molloy, Piano

O Lord, how shall I meet You, how welcome you a-right?  
Your people long to greet You, my hope, my heart's delight!  
O kindle, Lord most Holy, Your lamp within my breast  
To do in spirit lowly all that may please You best.  
Love caused Your incarnation; love brought You down to me.  
Your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.  
Oh, love beyond all telling, that led You to embrace  
In love, all loves excelling, our lost and fallen race.

## Prayer of Intercession and the Lord's Prayer ('debts')

Rev. Spencer

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## Offertory

Rev. Spencer

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Please remember the church in your year-end giving and consider how God may be calling you to bring hope and love to others through prayer, service and financial gifts. [Give easily online](#) or directly from your phone by [using the Church Center App](#). Thank you to all who are generously giving by mail or electronically. Your faithfulness has allowed the church to support its staff and responsibilities during this pandemic. For questions or help, contact the church office at 856.235.1688.

## Blessing of the Manger Sunday Gifts

Rev. Spencer

These gifts, given from the heart, will support the clients of Oaks Integrated Care during the holidays.

## Offertory Music

### ***To a Virgin, Meek and Mild***

Spanish Carol, arr. Hustad

Gwen Wilkie, Alto

Joel Krott, Organ

To a virgin meek and mild came an angel holy,  
Greeting her, the undefiled, in her chamber lowly:  
Hail to thee, thou blessed one, chosen mother of God's Son!  
Through a wondrous birth He shall come to earth, and shall reign as a King  
As a King forever, Jesus blessed Savior.

By the sages long foretold, now the day is nearing;  
Promises of God unfold, in the Son appearing.  
He, the Child of Bethlehem, branch divine of Jesse's stem,  
Shall have great increase as the Prince of Peace, and the earth shall be filled  
With the Lord's salvation, Hope of every nation.

## Sermon

Kelly LePenske

### ***"The Fear of Disappointment"***

Scripture: Text: [Luke 1: 5-25 \(NLT\)](#)

Sermon Series: "Be Not Afraid"

<sup>13</sup> But the angel said, "Don't be afraid, Zechariah! God has heard your prayer. Your wife, Elizabeth, will give you a son, and you are to name him John. <sup>14</sup> You will have great joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, <sup>15</sup> for he will be great in the eyes of the Lord. He must never touch wine or other alcoholic drinks. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even before his birth. <sup>16</sup> And he will turn many Israelites to the Lord their God. <sup>17</sup> He will be a man with the spirit and power of Elijah. He will prepare the people for the coming of the Lord. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and he will cause those who are rebellious to accept the wisdom of the godly."

<sup>18</sup> Zechariah said to the angel, "How can I be sure this will happen? I'm an old man now, and my wife is also well along in years." <sup>19</sup> Then the angel said, "I am Gabriel! I stand in the very presence of God. It was he who sent me to bring you this good news! <sup>20</sup> But now, since you didn't believe what I said, you will be silent and unable to speak until the child is born. For my words will certainly be fulfilled at the proper time."

## Music in Preparation for Service

### ***Fughette: How Brightly Beams the Morning Star***

J.C. Bach

Joel Krott, Organ

## Benediction and Going Forth

Kelly LePenske

*The people are invited to leave an offering in the offering box located at the back of the narthex.*

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## 9:30 a.m. Worship Ministry

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<b>Audio Technician:</b>	Harris E. Ransom
<b>Live Video Streaming:</b>	Harris A. Ransom
<b>Flower Arrangers:</b>	Carol Morgan and Carol Benner
<b>Ushers:</b>	John Miller (lead), Jack Terry, Joe Scheideler, Brett Couvillion, Barry Leatherman
<b>Trustee Greeter:</b>	Paul Lewis

- **Today's sanctuary flowers** are given to the glory of God by Gayle Payne in loving memory of her husband David and their family.
- **Please see our website, *Advent Activity Guide* and online Events page** for details about Christmas mission opportunities to help those who are struggling and in need:
  - [Manger Sunday](#) (unwrapped gifts for Oaks Integrated Care, due **TODAY** Dec. 13. Drop off until 11:30 am outside)
  - [Alternative Gift Market](#) (donations to causes in the name of the recipient, open through Dec. 24)

The Deacons wish to thank everyone for their collective effort on the Christian Caring Center Online Gift Drive. From Dec. 12 to midnight Dec. 13, our church added over 100 goods to the drive, which surpassed our goal of 150, with the final total being 174 goods! We could not have done this without your quick response to the new deadline. Hallelujah! What a blessing you all are!

- **Check your mailbox** for [a letter from Pastor Stuart](#) recapping our historic year of 2020 and sharing information about [end of year giving opportunities](#) including Christmas Green, our annual holiday offering.



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### [Christmas Eve Schedule Announced](#)

***See website, eblast, Connections and Events page for details***

At a special meeting Dec. 5, Session approved three worship services for Christmas Eve, given ongoing challenges and rapid changes of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- **3:00 p.m.:** Outdoor Service in the courtyard (between the sanctuary and the Commons)
- **4:00 p.m.:** Live Stream Communion Service in the sanctuary (no in-person attendance)
- **7:00 p.m.:** Outdoor Service in the courtyard (approx. 20 minutes in length)

Outdoor services will be approximately 20 minutes in length. Dress warmly, please wear a mask and bring a chair if you would like. To restrict respiration, individuals will be given a battery-powered candle to hold.