

Service for the Lord's Day

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2017

The Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

(each person prays silently)

Use us, Dear Lord, to proclaim the unfolding of future joy and renewed life. Amen.

Gathering

PRELUDE

Selected

WELCOME

Lsha Stanley

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Enhancement Team

Let us pray together: Merciful God, we give thanks that you send messengers like John to call us to greater faith. We ask that in these days we prepare for you in prayer and acts of holy compassion. Forgive us and lead us to your light. Amen.

*INTROIT #88

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (v.1)

Helmore, 1852

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The Promised One of God brings good news to the oppressed and binds up the brokenhearted.

We are witnesses to the light of Christ!

The Promised One of God proclaims liberty to captives and release to prisoners.

We are witnesses to the light of Christ!

The Promised One of God comforts all who mourn and gives a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

Rejoicing always, praying without ceasing, holding fast to what is good, we are witnesses to the light of Christ!

*HYMN #88

“O Come, o Come, Emmanuel” (v.2,6&7)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Old habits and new wrongs wear ruts through our lives and relationships. But God is able to restore us. Like water coursing through a desert, the waters of baptism flow through us, reminding us that we belong to God and are raised to new life. Now, let us confess our sins to Almighty God, first silently, then with the unison prayer.

SILENT PRAYER

(A time of silence for personal prayer)

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. In your great mercy forgive our sins and free us from selfishness, that we may choose your will and walk in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. This we ask in His name. Amen.

LORD HAVE MERCY

Kyrie Eleison

*“Lord, have mercy upon us,
Christ have mercy upon us, Lord have mercy upon us.”*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

In Jesus Christ, the Lord has done great things for us! Even if we have gone out in tears, God brings us home shouting for joy.

Thanks be to God; we are forgiven!

*GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

#580

Proclaiming

ANTHEM

*“The Gift of Love”
(Chancel Choir)*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Bibles, p.86/LG. p.111

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

HYMN #96

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

Coffin, 1736

SECOND SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Bibles, p.650/LG. p.846

The Word of God, for the People of God

Thanks be to God

SERMON

“On Being A Domestique”

Rev. Jimmie Reese

Responding

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

God has created the peoples of the earth to be one universal family. In reconciling love, God overcomes the barriers between sisters and brothers and breaks down every form of

discrimination based on racial or ethnic difference, real or imaginary. The church is called to bring all people to receive and uphold one another as persons in all relationships of life. Therefore, the church labors for the abolition of all racial discrimination and ministers to those injured by it. Congregations, individuals, or groups of Christians who exclude, dominate, or patronize others, however subtly, resist the Spirit of God and bring contempt on the faith which they profess.” This, we believe.

–The Confession of 1967 (9.44)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

MINISTRY OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY Selected

*DOXOLOGY

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Sending

*HYMN #77 *“Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old”* Patterson, 1982

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE #82 *“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”* Wesley, 1744

POSTLUDE Selected

(*) Those who are able may stand.

Bold italic letters indicate congregational responses.

Rev. Dr. Jimmie Reese is an ordained United Methodist minister and professor who has served churches in East Texas and Houston, and as professor at Lon Morris College for 39 years. He now teaches at the University of Texas in Tyler part-time, and has recently guest preached at First Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville and Tyler. Jimmie has been married to his wife, Shirley, for 60 years and they have two grown children and two grandchildren. He has degrees from St. Mary’s School of Theology, and a Doctoral degree from the Perkins School of Theology at SMU.

This week’s prayers and concerns: Debbie Castro, Syble DeLoach, Jack Gray, Joyce Huggins, Dorothy Maloney, Billie Manck, Jan Mims, Cindy and Bob Ratliff, Bob Schauwecker, Patsy Snelgrove, Billy Tapley, and Sue Williams.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tues. 12/19	Presbyterian Women Lunch at Sal’s	11:30am
Thur. 12/21	L.E.A.N. Meeting	2:00pm
Thur. 12/21	Session Meeting	6:30pm