

Bold italic letters indicate congregational responses.

Service for the Lord's Day

Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2020

— Gathering —

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Rev. Michele R. Goff

OPENING SENTENCES & CANDLE LIGHTING Claudia Morgan-Gray & Weldon Gray

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 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.***

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

MUSIC

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Liturgist, Carol Scoggins

CONFESSION

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin together:

***Your love is good news for the oppressed, O Lord, and you bind up the
brokenhearted. Forgive us, O God, when we think that your good news is
only for us. Forgive us, O God, when we twist your gospel into something
that fits comfortably into our lives. By your light, let us see you leading
us beyond ourselves and into the world you love. By your grace, forgive
us, and free us to try again.***

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Michele R. Goff

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! ***Thanks be to God.***

— Word —

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Carol Scoggins

SCRIPTURE

Rev. Michele R. Goff

Our first reading is from the prophet Isaiah chapter 61, verses 1 through 4 and continues with verses 8 through 11. A voice is crying in the wilderness: Listen to the word of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

Our gospel reading is from the gospel according to Luke chapter 1 verses 39 through 55. The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. Listen to the word of the Lord.

Heaven and earth will pass away but the word of the Lord stands forever.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Singing for Joy"

Rev. Michele R. Goff

DESCRIPTION OF PRAISE

— Response —

MUSIC

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Carol Scoggins

Watching and waiting for the coming of Christ, we pray for the promise of a new creation, saying: Come quickly, Lord; ***our hope is in you.***

With expectation, we pray for the church . . .

Anoint us with the gift of your Spirit that we may feed the hungry and proclaim good news to the poor.

Come quickly, Lord; ***our hope is in you.***

With expectation, we pray for the world . . .

Use us in your work to heal the brokenhearted, grant freedom to those who are held captive, and bring liberation to those who are in prison.

Come quickly, Lord; ***our hope is in you.***

With expectation, we pray for this community . . .

Be present in abandoned and forgotten neighborhoods, places where mourning overshadows joy and healthy food is hard to find.

Come quickly, Lord; ***our hope is in you.***

With expectation, we pray for loved ones . . .

Remembering your commandment to love, we pray for our enemies and those who trouble us, as well as those whose presence in our lives brings us joy.

Come quickly, Lord; ***our hope is in you.***

(Pause for silent prayer)

God our hope, as the promised day approaches, fill us with the joy of your Holy Spirit and strengthen us to serve you faithfully; through Christ, who is coming to reign. ***Amen.***