

(* Please rise in body or in spirit.
Bold italic letters indicate congregational responses.

Service for the Lord's Day

Third Sunday of Advent

December 12, 2021

— *Gathering* —

PRELUDE
WELCOME

Blackbird

Katie Hurst
Liturgist: Jimmy Chapman

CANDLE LITANY – Katie & Briar Hurst and River Evers

“Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I will say, Rejoice.”

The world says, “Worry,”
and we say, “Rejoice.”

The news says, “Fear,”
and we say, “Rejoice.”

The world says, “Be happy,”
and the church says, “Be faithful.”

As we light our third Advent candle,

We pray for hope, peace, and joy.

Come now, O child of Mary.

Come now, O Prince of Joy.

INTROIT When God is a Child Worship Ensemble, soloist: Katie Hurst

***OPENING SENTENCES**

Prepare the way of the Lord!

***Let us sing praises to the Lord,
for God has done glorious things.***

Let us shout aloud and sing for joy,
for great in our midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Come, let us worship God.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

***HYMN #144** In the Bleak Midwinter

CONFESSION

Trusting in God's salvation, faithfulness and merciful love,
let us confess our sin and the sins of the world,
as we lift our voices together.

***Merciful God,
we confess that, in the midst of your glorious creation,
we have neglected our role in its care.
We ignore the cries of the hurting and the lonely,
those on the margins and those who are oppressed.
We focus on our own desires,
while forgetting the needs of our neighbors.
We have not prepared a way for the Lord,
through either our words or our deeds,
neither through our actions nor our thoughts.
Grant us your mercy in forgiveness;
and lead us to act with compassion and justice,
guided by your glorious light.***

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. ***Thanks be to God.***

— *Word* —

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

HEBREW SCRIPTURE Zephaniah 3:14-20 Bible p. 826-827, LG p. 1073-1074

A voice is crying in the wilderness: Listen to the word of the Lord.

The word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

2ND HEBREW SCRIPTURE Isaiah 12:2-6 Bible p. 603, LG p. 785

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

GOSPEL Luke 3:7-18 Bible p. 56, LG p. 73

Hear the word of the Lord for us.

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

SERMON Joy and Justice Rev. Michele Goff

ASCRPTION OF PRAISE

— *Response* —

HYMN #101 No Wind at the Window

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.19

**Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus.
His faith and obedience were the response
of the perfect child of God.
He was the fulfillment
of God's promise to Israel,
the beginning of the new creation,
and the pioneer of the new humanity.
He gave history its meaning and direction**