

DECEMBER 13, 2020

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Welcome and Announcements

PRELUDE

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Leader: May your hearts be filled with God's love towards all people as you consider the life of John the Baptist, whose calling was to make the world ready to receive God's Messiah, Jesus.

People: Thanks be to God.

Reading for the Third Sunday of Advent from Matthew 3

Lighting the Advent Candle of Love

Prayer (unison)

Lord Jesus, your servant John the Baptist called people to prepare for your coming by turning away from sin and caring for one another. Give us pure hearts to repent of whatever distances us from you, and compassionate hearts to reach out to all people in need with your love. Amen.

HYMN #S-3 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison):

Gracious God, through the voice of John the Baptist, calling us out of the darkness of our lives into your holy light, we hear your message that the coming of the Messiah is drawing near, and we need to be ready to receive him into our hearts, our homes and our daily lives. Bless our Advent waiting and preparation, we pray. Help us to repent from anything that separates us from you and prevents you from coming near to us. Transform this season from a time of stress and aggravation to a time of lifting up the valleys and making smooth the rough places in our lives so that we may offer Christ our adoration and praise when he arrives. We ask these things in the name of Jesus our Savior, who taught us to pray like this, saying:

#PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR (Unison)

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, for ever. Amen.

#GLORIA PATRI (Unison):

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.

SPECIAL MUSIC

SCRIPTURE READINGS: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 and John 1:6-8, 19-28

SERMON MESSAGE: *A Voice Calling* Rev. Gagnon

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Prayer Requests
Silent Prayer
Pastoral Prayer

BLESSING OF OUR OFFERINGS

#Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

Almighty God, as we wait and prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ, you, have important work for us to do. Make us modern-day John the Baptists, calling people out of the darkness they dwell in and helping them be ready to receive their Savior. Bless our offerings for the accomplishing of that work, dear Lord. Use our financial resources, our time and our energy to help teach your ways and lead others to repentance, until that long yearned for day arrives when justice will roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Amen.

HYMN #130 *O Christ, How Shall I Meet You?*

BENEDICTION (Responsive):

Pastor: When you leave this place of worship, be a voice like John the Baptist, calling others out of the darkness and into the light to prepare for the Messiah's advent.

People: We will proclaim the Good News of Christ's coming to the world, not only by our words, but also by our deeds.

Pastor: As Jesus' arrival draws near, turn your lives around to face in God's direction so you can be ready to receive him with gladness.

People: We will live faithful lives so that others can see by our example how to prepare for the Savior's coming.

Pastor: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

POSTLUDE

DISMISSAL