

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

9:30 a.m.

3rd Sunday in Advent

December 16, 2018

PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

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

Advent means coming.

We are preparing for the days when

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.

GATHERING PRAYER

Eternal God, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for the coming of your Son. Grant us wisdom to see your purpose and openness to hear your will, that we too may prepare the way for Christ who is coming in power and glory to establish his kingdom of peace and justice; through Jesus Christ our Judge and Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. **Amen.**

HYMN 97 *(standing)*

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(standing)*

Almighty God, you send your Son into a world where wheat must be winnowed from chaff and wickedness clings even to what is good. We confess our wrong doing and pray that the fire of your Spirit will purge us of greed and deceit, so that, purified we may find our peace in you. We ask this through him whose coming is certain and whose day draws near, your Son our Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *(unison)*

O God, your truth is often hidden from the wise and revealed to babes: grant us pure and childlike hearts, to know what is necessary for our salvation, to lead us into all truth, and to lead us in paths of obedience; through Jesus Christ your Son, our Savior. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Zephaniah 3:14-20

EPISTLE LESSON

Philippians 4:4-7

MOMENT WITH CHILDREN

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 11:2-11

SERMON

Transitions

Rev. Deane Kemper

“Are you the one who is to come, or do we wait for another?”

Matthew 11:2

HYMN 102 *(standing)*

Savior of the Nations, Come

PRESENTATION OF OFFERING

OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(unison)*

The Barman Declaration

The Christian Church is the congregation of sisters and brothers in which Jesus Christ acts presently as the Lord in Word and Sacrament through the Holy Spirit. As the church of pardoned sinners, it has to testify in the midst of a sinful world, with its faith as well as its obedience, with its message as with its order, that it is solely the church of Christ, and that it lives in the expectation of his appearance.

HYMN 366 *(standing)*

Love Divine, All loves Excelling

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE