

ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 13, 2009 ❖ 10:30 AM ❖ The Third Sunday of Advent

Reflections for the Third Sunday of Advent

Advent is a season of joyous anticipation. Just as a family anticipates the birth of a baby and there is preparation of getting some things in order, that work is joyous. Similarly, starting with this third week of Advent, our liturgy reflects the joy of anticipation. Today's candle, instead of the purple color of repentance, is the pink color of joy. The third Sunday of Advent is also known as "Joyful Sunday." Since the day of Christ's appearing is coming ever closer, the accent falls on what Christ will do in his coming. Both his first and second comings are related to salvation, redemption, the renewal of Creation, the restoration of all things to the Father, and the sure destruction of evil. In this we rejoice!

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased! Luke 2:14

Behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:10-11

Thoughts for Worship Preparation

But you say, "I'm not religious" ... but everybody's religious. What is your religion? Well, your religion is what you rely upon... Your religion is what you live for, is what you hope for... Your god is that to which you give yourself, you give your time, attention, your greatest thought, your money – you live for it. It is the thing that keeps you going... It is what you turn to when life gets so hard. Everybody has a religion. But the question is – what is your religion?" D. M. Lloyd-Jones

"Whatever controls us is our lord. The person who seeks power is controlled by power. The person who seeks acceptance is controlled by acceptance. We do not control ourselves. We are controlled by the lord of our lives." Rebecca Pippert

"The living God, who revealed himself both at Mount Sinai and on the Cross, is the only Lord who, if you find him, can truly fulfill you, and, if you fail him, can truly forgive you." Tim Keller

There should be nothing merely "merry" or "little" about Christmas. For on Christmas Day God throws open the curtains of history and announces the arrival of the true King, Jesus, who is going to sabotage and eliminate all evil, and make all things new through the advancing of his kingdom of reconciliation and redemption. Scotty Smith

Pastoral Welcome

The Rev. John R. McCracken

Prelude

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Arr. John Innes

Choral Introit

"A Flickering Candle"

Stephen P. Folkemer

Though night is long, do not grow weak, to all who suffer, clearly speak:

"The Lord, the Savior whom you seek, behold, is come among you!"

Watch, watch for Christ is near; the promised Son of God most dear.

Joy, joy, his light will clear the shades of death and sin.

Public Confession of Sin

Joe Gage, *Ruling Elder*

You, O Lord, have promised that if we will confess our sins You are faithful and just to forgive us our sins. We come in penitence seeking Your forgiveness, that we may know the joy of Your presence, and the light of Your face. You alone know how often we have offended You and hurt the lives of others. Forgive us, O Lord, for every unkind thought, every untrue word, every wrong act. Forgive us for we have been selfish, and have not thought of the needs of others. Forgive us for our ingratitude, our neglect of prayer, our carelessness in the use of money and our forgetfulness of our sacred vows. Create in us clean hearts, and renew a right spirit within us. Restore unto us the joy of Your salvation, and uphold us with Your free Spirit for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Silent Confession

Hymn of Reflection, No. 193

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

PICARDY

Declaration of Forgiveness

Zephaniah 3:14

Hear the promise of God to those who are his people because they repent of their sins and trust in Christ:

“The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.”

My friends, I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

People: Thanks be to God!

Prayers for Christ’s Church and the World

Mr. Gage

The Collection of Tithes and Offerings

The Musical Offering

“Where Shepherds Lately Knelt”

Jaroslav J. Vajda, Carl Schalk

Trinity Choir; Douglass McFarland, organ

Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angels word, I come in half-belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred; But there is room and welcome there for me, but there is room and welcome there for me. In that unlikely place I find him as they said: sweet, newborn Babe, how frail, and in a manger bed: a still small Voice to cry one day for me, a still small Voice to cry one day for me. How should I not have known Isaiah would be there, his prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart, I stare: a Child, a Son, the Prince of peace--for me! A Child, a Son, the Prince of peace—for me! Can I, will I forget how Love was born and burned its way into my heart: unasked, unforced, unearned, to die, to live, and not alone for me, to die, to live, and not alone for me.

The Offering Consecration

Mr. McCracken

***The Doxology**

DIX

As they offered gifts most rare at that manger rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heavenly King. Amen.

***Introduction of New Members**

The Rev. Michael G. Wichlan

Gwen Barker, Scott and Lara Baugh, Sara Baugh, Ken Godi, Josh and Becky Guerre, Jim and Marcia Harwood, Bill and Robin Keenen, Reeana Keenen, Cy and Amy Norris, Augie Norris, David and Kathy White, Trenton White

The Passing of the Peace

Minister: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

***Service of Friendship**

Mr. Wichlan

Children between the ages of 4 through 1st grade may now be dismissed for Celebration Chapel, Room 101. At this time, please locate the black Friendship pad at the left end of your row, fill it out and pass it back to the beginning of the row.

***Prayer for Illumination**

Mr. McCracken

***Scripture Reading**

Romans 6:15-23
Pew Bibles, pg. 943

The Morning Sermon

"Slaves of Christ Are Free Indeed"

***Hymn of Response No. 211**

"God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen"

GOD REST YOU

***Charge and Benediction**

Mr. McCracken

Minister: Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. *Matthew 11.28-30*

People: With God's help, we will.

Minister: Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen. *Jude 1.24-25*

People: Thanks be to God! Amen!

Organ Postlude

Psalm XIX
The Heavens Declare!

Benedetto Marcelo

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**All in the congregation, who are able, please stand.*