

**BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**10:30 a.m. Sunday 13 December 2020**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

**ENTRANCE**

Prelude and Lighting of Candles

Announcements

Greeting\*\*: The Lord has done great things for us;

**and so we are glad!**

Our mouths are filled with laughter,

**and our tongues with shouts of joy!**

*(Psalm 26)*

Selected Carols

\*Opening Prayer^:

In the Advent seasons, when the past has fled,

unmasked, away

and there is nothing left to do but wait,

God, shelter us.

**Be our surrounding darkness;**

**be the fertile soil out of which hope springs**

**in due time.**

**In uncertain times, help us to greet the dawn**

**and labor on, love on,**

**in faith awaiting your purpose hid in you**

**waiting to be born in due time. Amen.**

*(Ruth Duck, U.S.A., 20th Cent.)*

\*Opening Hymn: 202 "People, Look East"

Lighting of the Advent Candles: THIRD SUNDAY; Isaiah 35:10

We light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Joy.

**May the joyful promise of your presence, O God**

**make us rejoice in our hope of salvation.**

**O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

(2)

Response: 2090 (*v 3 only*) "Light the Advent Candle"

"Light the Advent candle, three; Think of heavenly harmony;  
angels singing 'Peace on Earth' at the blessed Savior's birth.

Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;

candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.'

**PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE**

Prayer for Illumination/Words of Assurance^^:

God hears and God forgives.

**It is not God's intention that we should feel shame.**

It is God's intention that we should be responsive  
and responsible.

**It is for that reason that God forgives ---that we**

**may be set free from the past**

**and set free for the future.**

Amen. Let us ready ourselves to hear God's Word.

First Lesson: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Psalter: 847 (*Response 2*) Psalm 126

Second Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

\*Hymn of Preparation: 216 "Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming"

\*Gospel Lesson: John 1:6-8

Sermon: "Ego"

Affirmation of Faith: 885 "A Modern Affirmation"

Joys, Concerns, Prayers

\*The Peace: Let us offer one another signs  
of reconciliation and love.

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

(3)

**THANKSGIVING**

Invitation: As forgiven and reconciled people, let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God.

Offering/Offerory

\*Doxology: 192 (*Verses 1 & 6 only*) "There's a Spirit  
in the Air"

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession: 489 "For God's Gifts"

\*The Lord's Prayer : 895

**SENDING FORTH**

\*Closing Hymn: 217 "Away in A Manger"

\*Dismissal^: Almighty God, you created us in your own image.  
Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil,  
and to make no peace with oppression.

**And, that we may reverently use our freedom,  
help us to employ it  
in the maintenance of justice  
to the glory of your holy name;  
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

*(The Book of Common Prayer, U.S.A.,  
20th Cent., Alt.)*

\*Extinguishing of Candles and Postlude

\*Indicates the people standing, if able and willing

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