

BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

10:30 a.m. Sunday 15 December 2024

Third Sunday of Advent

ENTRANCE

Prelude and Lighting of Candles

Announcements *(To help us connect, please sign the attendance pad in your pew)*

*Greeting**:
Sing praises to the Lord,
who has done marvelous things.
Let it be known in all the earth.
Shout aloud and sing for joy
For in our midst is the Holy One of Israel.
(Isaiah 12)

*Opening Prayer:
Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.
The Book of Common Prayer

*Opening Hymn: 209 *"Blest Be the God of Israel"*

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.**

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

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination: 195 *(Spoken, in unison: Verse 1 only)*
"Send Your Word"

First Lesson: Zephaniah 3:14-20

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Psalter: *(Insert: Alternate leader and people)* Isaiah 12:2-6

Second Lesson: Philippians 4:4-7

*Hymn of Preparation: 184 "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

*Gospel Lesson: Luke 3:7-18

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith: 883 "A Statement of Faith
of the United Church of Canada"

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.

THANKSGIVING

Invitation: 218 *(Verse 3 only)* "It Came Upon
the Midnight Clear"

Offering/Offertory

*Doxology: 218 *(Verse 4 only)* "It Came Upon
the Midnight Clear"

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession^:
**God of the ages, we praise you,
for in the dawn of time you created the world,
sending light by your Word to dispel darkness.
In Jesus Christ you began a new creation,
sending him to be the Light of the World,
to drive away fear and despair,
and to rule in peace and justice, holiness and love.
Amen.**

(Presbyterian Daily Prayer, U.S.A., 20th Cent., Alt.)

*The Lord's Prayer: 895

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SENDING FORTH

*Closing Hymn: 216 "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

*Benediction: Go forth rejoicing in the promise of salvation.
And the peace of God,
which surpasses all understanding,
guard your hearts and minds
in Christ Jesus this day and always. **Amen.**

*Extinguishing of Candles and Postlude/Going Forth

*Indicates the people standing, if able and willing

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