



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 13, 2009

Eleven o'clock

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE GATHERING

The service of worship begins with the prelude; quiet is requested as you enter the sanctuary and prepare for worship. In the spirit of Christian fellowship, we invite you to wear a name tag which is available from the greeters. As a community that prays with and for one another, we invite you to share your joys and concerns by using the blue cards available from the ushers and in the welcome pad folders. Those parts of the Service of Worship in which the congregation participates in word or song are noted in bold type.

**Stand as you are able.*

PRELUDE Three Advent Preludes Flor Peeters

* **HYMN 11** O Lord, How Shall I Meet You? Valet Will Ich Dir Geben

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Be glad and rejoice with all your heart!

People: Lift up your voices in praise!

Leader: The Lord, the King of Israel, is with you.

People: Never again will we fear any harm.

Leader: The Lord will take great delight in you.

People: The Lord will renew us with love.

INTROIT To Thee, O Lord Rachmaninoff

To Thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul, my God, I trust in Thee

PSALM 25: 1,2

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please use the welcome pad in the blue folder at the end of the pew. Record your presence. Pass it back, noticing who is worshipping with you. When the pad has been returned, please tear off the sheet and place it in the offering plate.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Wonderful God, when you come into our lives, you change our future, even though we confess that often we fight against change. When you walk with us, what at first seemed inconceivable and impossible by ourselves becomes possible, even though we confess that we often fail to grasp the hope that is in you. Help us to listen for your plans for us and to recognize the ways you are with us as the God of hope, now and forever, as we pray in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYERS OF SILENT AND INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: Friends, believe and proclaim the Good News: in Jesus Christ, love breaks through hatred, hope breaks through despair, life breaks through death.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, loved, and set free.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Lee-Chin Family

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *(all sing)*

Rejoice, rejoice. Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel.

* EXCHANGE OF PEACE

Leader: Let us open our hearts to one another as Christ has opened his heart to us, and God will be glorified.

People: *The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.*

(Exchange Signs of Reconciliation and the Peace of Christ with your neighbor - e.g., *"The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you."*)

Response - *"And also with you."*)

TIME WITH CHILDREN

+ Children and Youth leave for their Bible Study Classes. +

HYMN 1 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus Stuttgart

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON Zephaniah 3:14-20

ANTHEM O Come, O Rod of Jesse's Stem Joel Martinson

*O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem, from every foe deliver them
That trust your power to save, and give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
O come, O key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. Rejoice...*

SECOND LESSON Luke 3:7-18

SERMON "So What Should We Do?" Rev. Richard S. Hong

OFFERTORY Rejoice in the Lord Purcell

*Rejoice in the Lord always,
and again I say, rejoice.
Let your softness be known unto all men:
the Lord is at hand.
Be careful for nothing:
but in all prayer and supplication,
let your petitions be manifest unto God with giving of thanks.
And the peace of God,
which passeth all understanding,
shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Amen.*

* THE DOXOLOGY Old Hundredth

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Creator, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

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, forever. Amen.

THE SENDING OUT

* HYMN 423 Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun *Duke Street*

* BENEDICTION

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE Hark, a Thrilling Voice is Sounding *Gerald Near*

(Our worship ends with the conclusion of the Postlude. It is the custom of our church to remain seated. Those who wish to leave may do so.)

* * * * *

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Zephaniah 3:14-20 (NRSV)

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! ¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. ¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. ¹⁷The 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 ¹⁸as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. ¹⁹I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. ²⁰At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and

praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

Luke 3:7-18 (NRSV)

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” ¹⁰And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” ¹¹In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” ¹³He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” ¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

* * * * *