

# Grace Presbyterian Church

Worships God at 11:00 a.m.

**December 13, 2020**

**The Third Sunday in Advent**

**In the sanctuary and live streamed**

## **The Bell Calls Us to Worship**

**Prelude** The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns arr. Stephen DeCesare

Bob Vawter, trombone; Rickie Cooke, baritone horn; Susan Steppe, piano

The congregation stands to sing

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

## **Opening Sentences**

**Pastor:** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**People:** **The Maker of heaven and earth.**

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

**Pastor:** Let us pray.

**Prayer for the Day** (spoken by the pastor; the congregation joining the Amen.)

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 also 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 our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The congregation sits.

## **Lighting the Third Candle in the Advent Wreath**

Colins Eno and Awaiwing Itambi

At the conclusion of the candle lighting service, all stand to sing:

**O come, Thou Key of *Da-vid*, come, And open wide our heav'n-ly home;**

**Make safe the way that *leads* on high, And close the path to mis-ery.**

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

**Pastor:** The peace of Christ be always with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

**Passing of the Peace** (Worshippers greet one another with the peace of Christ.)

## Welcome, Announcements, and a Word to Children

Prayer for Illumination

Bob Gammon

Old Testament

Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11

Psalm 126

Unison

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,  
we were like those who dream.

Then our mouth was filled with laughter  
and our tongue with shouts of joy.

Then it was said among the nations,  
“The Lord has done great things for them.”

The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.

Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses of the Negev.

May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,  
shall come home with shouts of joy carrying their sheaves.

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 14

Savior of the Nations, Come

Nun Komm Der Heiden Heiland

The congregation sits.

Epistle

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Gospel

John 1:6-8,19-28

Sermon

Good News and Bad News

Mike Krech

“Then they said to him, ‘Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?’ He said, ‘I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord.’”

John 1:22-23

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 10

On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry Winchester New

Apostles’ Creed

Unison; Hymnal, page 14, Traditional

Gloria in Excelsis

Refrain of Hymn 23

Gloria

The congregation sits.

**Pastoral Prayer of Thanksgiving, Intercession, and Dedication**

**The Lord’s Prayer** (debts/debtors)

Unison; Hymnal, page 16, Traditional

## Offertory Sentence

**Offertory** Trio on Bring a Touch, Jeanette, Isabella David Hegarty

The congregation stands to sing the

**Doxology 592**

Old Hundredth

**Benediction**

**Hymn 12**

People, Look East

Besancon

Worshippers are invited to sit and conclude worship through the postlude.

Or you may depart the sanctuary quietly and briskly.

**Postlude**

Sing We Now of Christmas (Noel Nouvelet)

Arr. Anna Laura Page

Following the postlude, Pastor Mike Krech will be at the front of the church near the chancel steps and welcomes conversation with any, while masked and physically distanced.

## Welcome to worship at Grace Presbyterian Church.

In today's Gospel reading John the Baptizer insists that he is not the Messiah, but a voice in the wilderness, crying out, "Make straight the way of the Lord."

In the Epistle lesson, Paul concludes the first letter to Thessalonica by urging believers to be patient, prayerful, and joyful as they await the Lord's return. This note of joy in the epistle reading is why we light the pink or rose candle today, as the third Sunday in Advent is also called Gaudete Sunday, from the Latin for "rejoice."

Isaiah 61, today's Old Testament, also has notes of joy as the people of Judah are released from their captivity in Babylon in the 530's B.C. Returning home to Jerusalem, they will "repair the ruined cities," rejoice in the Lord, and be "clothed in the garments of salvation."

Psalms 126 shares the themes of Isaiah 61 in the "restored fortunes of Zion."

"Zion" was originally the name of the hill captured by David (2 Samuel 5:7).

The name Zion was later also given to the hill upon which Solomon built the Jerusalem temple, and by extension "Zion" comes to stand for Jerusalem itself. (JMK)