

Third Sunday in Advent

December 12, 2021

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Kyrie

- P** Lord, have mercy upon us.
C Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Confession & Absolution

- P** Let us confess our sin to God:
O Lord, great God, all holy, Father most gracious, filled with mercy and steadfast love,
- C** We are embarrassed to come before you, for we have rebelled against your wisdom and have gotten into trouble, for we have rejected your fatherly guidance and have gotten lost altogether. And therefore we are embarrassed. To you belongs righteousness, O Lord, and to us confusion of face.
- P** O Lord, great God, all holy, Father, most gracious, filled with mercy and steadfast love.
- C** Incline your ear to our troubles. Hear us when we pour out our sorrows before you. Forgive us, not on the ground of our own righteousness, but on the ground of your great mercy - on the ground of your great mercy in the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ. It is in his name that we pray, for He is our Savior and the mediator of the covenant of grace. Amen.
- P** Because of Jesus, God has forgiven all our sin. Hear the gospel of Christ from 1 John:
"I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven on account of Jesus' name."
- C** Amen.

Opening Hymn #849

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



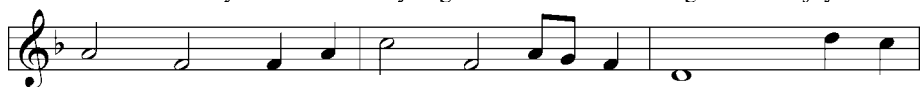
1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a lib - er -
 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With a strong, yet
 3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered



at - ing light; Praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners,
 gen - tle, word; Praise the One who drove out de - mons
 in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious



Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the
 With the pierc - ing, two - edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool
 That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and



Gos - pel, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing
 wa - ter To the des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this
 glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done; Let us



storms, and feed - ing thou - sands With the ver - y Bread of peace.
 Well comes liv - ing wa - ter, Quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
 praise the true Re - deem - er, Praise the One who makes us one.

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Psalm

Psalm 85

- P** LORD, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
- C** **You forgave the iniquity of your people; you covered all their sin.**
- P** You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger.
- C** **Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us!**
- P** Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations?
- C** **Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?**
- P** Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.
- C** **Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly.**
- P** Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land.
- C** **Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other.**
- P** Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky.
- C** **Yes, the LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.**
- P** Righteousness will go before him and make his footsteps a way.
- C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Zephaniah 3:14–20

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak."¹⁷The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.¹⁸I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach.¹⁹Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. 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 in, at the time when I gather you together; 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.

- P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Philippians 4:4-7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Sermon Hymn #338

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, Thou long - ex - spect-ed Je - sus, Born to set Thy peo - ple free;
2 Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re - lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley; Tune: Southern Harmony; Text and tune: Public domain

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventh chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹⁸The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, ¹⁹calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ²⁰And when the men had come to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’” ²¹In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. ²²And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. ²³And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

²⁴When John’s messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ²⁵What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings’ courts. ²⁶What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you.”

²⁸I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sermon

Prayer

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life \dagger everlasting. Amen.

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Holy Communion

Distribution Hymn #392

God Loves Me Dearly



1 God loves me dear - ly, Grants me sal -
2 I was in slav - 'ry, Sin, death, and
3 He sent forth Je - sus, My dear Re -
4 Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Him - self did
5 Now I will praise You, O Love E -



va - tion, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.
dark - ness; God's love was work - ing To make me free.
deem - er, He sent forth Je - sus And set me free.
of - fer; Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Paid all I owed.
ter - nal; Now I will praise You All my life long.



There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me



dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.

Distribution Hymn

Be Unto Your Name

We are a mo - ment, You are for-ev - er, Lord of the a -
We are the bro - ken, You are the heal - er, Je-sus, Re-deem-

ges, God before time; We are a va - por You are e-ter -
er, might - y to save; You are the love song we'll sing for-ev -

nal, Love ev - er - last - ing, reign - ing on high.
er, bow - ing be - fore You, bless - ing Your name.

Ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God Al-might - y, Wor - thy is the

Lamb who was slain; High - est prais - es hon - or and glo - ry

be un - to Your name, be un - to Your name.

Text and Tune: Gary Sadler; Lynn Deshazo; Tune: © 1998 Integrity's Hosanna! Music. Used by permission: CCLI no. 11373734

Distribution Hymn #373

See amid the Winter's Snow



1 See a - mid the win - ter's snow, Born for us on earth be - low,
2 Lo, with - in a sta - ble lies He who built the star - ry skies,
3 Sa - cred In - fant, all di - vine, What a ten - der love was Thine,
4 Teach, O teach us, ho - ly Child, By Thy face so meek and mild,



See, the gen - tle Lamb ap - pears, Prom - ised from e - ter - nal years.
He who, throned in height sub - lime, Sits a - mid the cher - u - bim.
Thus to come from high - est bliss Down to such a world as this!
Teach us to re - sem - ble Thee In Thy sweet hu - mil - i - ty.



Hail, O ev - er - bless - ed morn! Hail, re - demp - tion's hap - py dawn!



Sing through all Je - ru - sa - lem: "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"

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Nunc Dimittis

- P** Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace according to Your Word.
- C** For my eyes have seen Your salvation,
Which You have prepared before the face of all people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles and to be the glory of Your people Israel.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Closing Hymn #918

Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer



1 Guide me, O Thou great Re - deem - er, Pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain Whence the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, Bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but Thou art might - y;
stream doth flow; Let the fi - ery, cloud - y pil - lar
fears sub - side; Death of death and hell's de - struc - tion,



Hold me with Thy pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en,
Lead me all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer,
Land me safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es,



bread of heav - en, Feed me till I want no
strong de - liv - 'rer, Be Thou still my strength and
songs of prais - es I will ev - er give to



more; Feed me till I want no more.
shield; Be Thou still my strength and shield.
Thee; I will ev - er give to Thee.

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Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

Announcements

Today

- **Bible Study** 9:15 AM Masks Optional: Adults meet in the Sanctuary; Children meet downstairs
- **Congregational Meeting** 11:30 AM
- **Sunday Evening Prayer** 5:30 PM

Tuesday

- **Men's Bible Study** – 6:30 – 7:30 AM
- **Youth Group** - 6:30 - 8:00 PM

Wednesday

- **Advent Worship Service** – 7:00 PM
- ❖ **No Zoom Bible Study**

Saturday

- **Women of Faith Bible Study:** 9:00 AM

Congregational Meeting

We will have a congregational meeting today at 11:30 AM. Those who wish to attend in person can meet in the Sanctuary at that time. We will also broadcast online for those who are unable to attend in person. We will address the following:

- 2022 Budget--drafts may be found in the narthex or may be requested from the church office.
- 2022 Elders and Deacons

2022 Giving envelopes are ready for pick up in the narthex. If you have any questions, or need assistance, please contact Cheryl in the church office.

St. James Music and Life Ministries are sponsoring **Christmas Caroling on December 19th at 3 p.m.** Meet at the church. We will be going to Meridian Village and also a few houses. We have a small gift package for each of the members we will be visiting. If you would like to help assemble the gift packages, please arrive at 2:30. All ages encouraged to attend! Contact: Pam Meister 618-799-9348.

Children's Christmas Presentation The preschool thru 4th Grade will be dressing in nativity costumes and singing "Away in a Manager" on December 19th at the 10:30 AM service. Please meet downstairs at 10:15 AM to put on costumes before the service.

Christmas Family Breakfast. St. James Fellowship Team will be hosting a family breakfast downstairs in fellowship hall on December 19th after the early worship service to 10:15 AM. Everyone is invited to join us for a wonderful breakfast and fellowship opportunity

Madison County Children's Ministry Update. We received 3 grants this year from Thrivent:

\$250 Coats

\$250 Hoodies

\$250 Foster Teen program

In the last few weeks we delivered warm items to area schools in need:

15 hoodies to Grigsby Intermediate School in Granite City along with 15 sets of hats and gloves.

8 coats to the Hamel Elementary along with 20 sets of hats and gloves

8 coats to the Midway Elementary along with 20 sets of hats and gloves

8 coats to the Worden Intermediate School along with 20 sets of hats and gloves

These schools were overjoyed with the gifts of coats, hats and gloves!

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

Madison County Children's Mission is supporting several area schools children for Christmas: Granite City, Glen Carbon, and Collinsville. There are 133 opportunities to give with 33 wishes already fulfilled. The deadline is December 15th. Participants can order on Amazon and have them delivered to church or buy, wrap and deliver to church by Dec. 15th. We plan to have a wrapping party at church on December 16th to sort, wrap, and label and box up gifts to have them ready to deliver on 12/20. Please contact the church office to sign up for the wrapping party. To select a gift to donate, please visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0C4AAEA729A6F85-madison> or contact the church office.



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— GLEN CARBON —

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