

December 20, 2017

Midweek Advent Service 3

Organist: Teresa Bernthal

Usher: Steve Goodwin

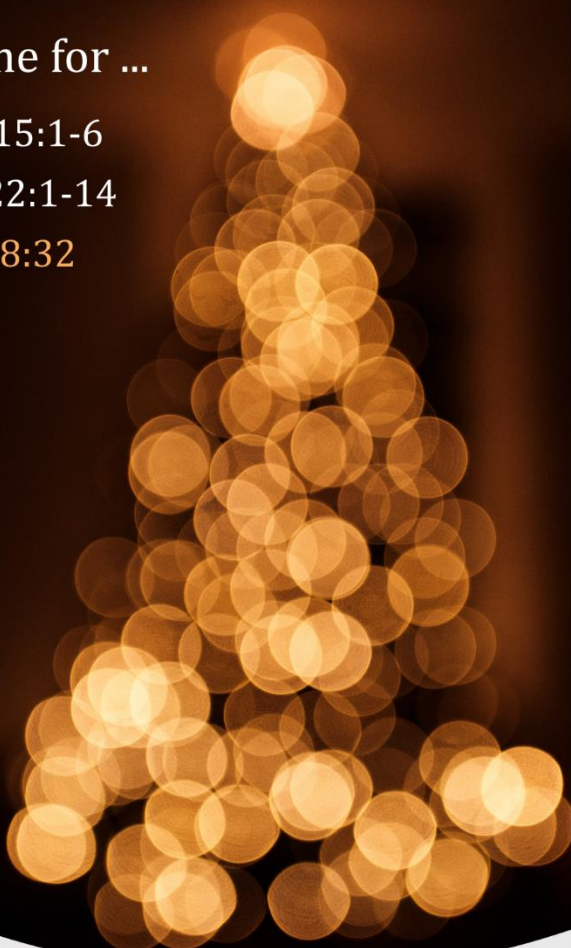
Acolyte: Joel Bernthal

Advent: A Time for ...

FAITH - Genesis 15:1-6

HOPE - Genesis 22:1-14

LOVE - Genesis 18:32



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✠ Order of Worship ✠

OPENING PRAYER

Hymn: WS #704:1-4

“Oh Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

P O Lord, open my lips.



C And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.

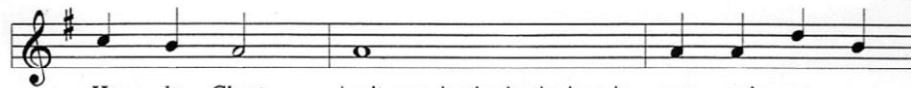
P Make haste, O God, to deliver me.



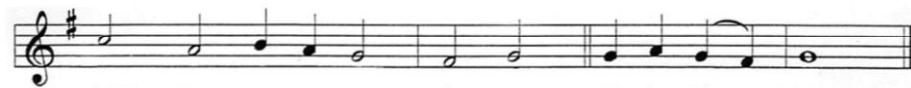
C Make haste to help me, O Lord.



Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the



Ho - ly Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ev - er



shall be: for - ev - er-more. A - men. Al - le - lu - ia!

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Selections from 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 Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us!

C Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

P Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.

C Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land.

P Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other.

C Righteousness will go before him and make his footsteps a way.

Reading of the Advent History of Our Lord

Luke 1:39-56

RESPONSE: TLH #85:13,15 "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"

13. Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, Make Thee a bed, soft, undefiled,
Within my heart, that it may be A quiet chamber kept for Thee.
15. Glory to God in highest heaven, Who unto us His Son hath given!
While angels sing with pious mirth A glad new year to all the earth.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Brief Statement: Of Justification

The Brief Statement was written in 1932 to serve as a summary of our doctrinal positions on the basis of Scripture.

Holy Scripture sums up all its teachings regarding the love of God to the world of sinners, regarding the salvation wrought by Christ, and regarding faith in Christ as the only way to obtain salvation, in the article of justification. Scripture teaches that God has already declared the whole world to be righteous in Christ, that therefore not for the sake of their good works, but without the works of the Law, by grace, for Christ's sake, He justifies, accounts as righteous, all those who believe and rely on the fact that for Christ's sake their sins are forgiven. Thus the Holy Ghost testifies through St. Paul: There is no difference; for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. And again: Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the Law.

Through this doctrine alone can poor sinners have the abiding comfort that God is assuredly gracious to them. For the Christian religion may be summed up in this: the faith that we have forgiveness of sins and salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.


Hymn: WS #702:1-3, 7

"As Angels Joyed with One Accord"

Advent: A Time for ... LOVE

SERMON TEXT - Genesis 18:22-26 So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the LORD. ²³ Then Abraham drew near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked?" ²⁴ Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city. Will you then sweep away the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵ Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" ²⁶ And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake."



C  Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with Your free Spirit. Amen.

THE OFFERING

PRAYER, LORD'S PRAYER, and BLESSING *followed by:*



C A-men, a - men, a - men.

CLOSING HYMN: TLH #77:1-4,13 "All My Heart This Night..."



Christmas Weekend Schedule Reminder:

December 24, 10:15am – Regular Sunday Worship
December 24, 7:00pm – Children's Christmas Eve Service
December 25, 10:15am – Christmas Day Service

(No Sunday School or Bible Class until January 21)