



Third Sunday
in Advent

Preparation for Worship

In our secret yearnings we wait for your coming,
and in our grinding despair we doubt that you will.

And in this privileged place
we are surrounded by witnesses who yearn more than do we
and by those who despair more deeply than do we.

Give us the grace and the impatience
to wait for your coming to the bottom of our toes,
to the edges of our fingertips.

We do not want our several worlds to end.

Come in your power
and come in your weakness
in any case
and make all things new. Amen.

— Walter Brueggemann

From Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth: Prayers of Walter Brueggemann

We Gather in God's Name

Welcome and Announcements

Please sign the friendship register

† Passing of the Peace

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Song of Praise

Come to Us

Praise Band

Call to Worship

One: Say to those of a Fearful Heart:

Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.

Many: Behold! The glory of the Lord shines upon us!

One: Say to those with weak hands and feeble knees:

Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.

Many: Behold! In splendor the Lord dwells among us!

One: The barren lands burst into bloom; the desert erupts
with delight. We join creation's song!

Many: With joy in our hearts, let us worship God!

† Hymn #106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

† Prayer of Confession

It is never easy for us to confess our sins, Waiting God. There are hurts we have caused to our families and friends, which we would like to forget. There are those we believe are impossible to love, and so we don't try. There are people who live on the edge of our society, and we ignore their cries for help.

Forgive us, God who comes near to us. When we have lost our way, show us yours. Lead us in humility down the streets of your kingdom.

Teach us your truth, so we might be able to keep your Word, revealed to us in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.

† Response #103

Come Now, O Prince of Peace (verses 1 and 4)

† Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: The good news is that Christ calls us to new life and enables us to begin again and again and again and again. Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

We Proclaim God's Word

Anthem

God of the Watching Ones
Chancel Choir

Frombach/Dengler

Children's Message: The Lighting of Advent's Third Candle

Response: *He came down that we may have light; He came down that we may have light; He came down that we may have light: Hallelujah, forevermore.*
He came down that we may have joy; He came down that we may have joy; He came down that we may have joy: Hallelujah, forevermore.

Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 35:1-10

† Hymn #79

Light Dawns on a Weary World

Meditation

Weary in the Waiting

Rev. Dr. Ben Trawick

Sharing of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Silent Comes the Joy

Praise Band

† Response

Veni Emmanuel

† Prayer of Dedication

David Buckley

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

We Depart To Serve God

† Parting Hymn #100

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

† Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord
Rob Passow, Organist

Vetter/Wagner

*The Flowers in the Sanctuary are placed by the
Sanctuary Guild and Members of Grace*

"To the Glory of God"

Your greeter this morning was Valerie Wenderoth.





IF YOU ARE VISITING TODAY - We are very glad you chose to worship with us! Please sign our friendship register so that we can greet you by name and call on you if you desire. If you need help, please call on an usher for assistance.

ALL CHILDREN ARE WELCOMED IN WORSHIP - Please ask an usher for a Worship Bag; for infants through 3-year-olds, our Nursery is downstairs in Room 5.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP - Children through 3rd grade have their own worship time following the lighting of the Advent wreath. Please pick children up following worship—K-3rd graders will be in Room 14, and younger children in Room 5.

SUNDAY SCHOOL/YOUTH - Classes for 5-year-olds through adults are offered at 9:15 a.m., from 2nd Sunday in September to the 3rd Sunday in May. Please check the Youth bulletin boards in the main level hallway to see the Youth schedule.

PLEASE ASK ANYONE FOR HELP OR DIRECTIONS!

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OFFICE HOURS

MON-FRI 9:00-4:30
CLOSED ON FEDERAL HOLIDAYS

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