

The Third Sunday of Advent

9:30AM, December 15th, 2024

Asterisk (*) indicates standing, as able. Bold/colored type indicates text spoken in unison.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP Responsive

Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice!

With joyful hearts, we draw living water from the wellspring of God's salvation.

With loud singing, we return to a home of love.

With loud shouts, we return to our God.

Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice!

*HYMN "O Come, All Ye Faithful" **UMH # 234**

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Apostles' Creed **UMH # 881**

OPENING PRAYER Unison

Redeemer God, with laughter in our mouths and joy in our hearts, we draw living water from the wellspring of your salvation. For you save the lame and gather the outcast, turning their shame into praise. You gather the lost and bring the exile home at last. Who is like you in all the earth? There are none that compare to you, O God. In your presence, we dwell secure. In your love, we find the power to transform the world. Amen.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY Elaine Warren

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON Unison

Author of everlasting life, we are quick to claim the joys and blessings of our baptism, but we are quick to forget the cost of Christian discipleship; we are eager to draw from the wellspring of your

salvation, but shrink from the refining fire of your baptism. Remind us once more, O God, that your good news carries more than the hope of your blessing for our lives, it carries the expectation that we will amend our ways. It is not enough to praise you with our lips, we must also love you with our actions: by sharing our wealth, by showing mercy to the needy, and by protecting the weak and defenseless. In these things are you praised. In these things do we show our faith and fidelity. Heal our hearts, compassionate One, that we may be a people of true repentance—a people who prepare for your Son's birth by embracing the ones he loved. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Although the axe is lying at the root of the tree, do not despair. When we return to God with full and honest hearts, Christ takes away the judgments against us, and brings us the joy of our salvation. **Thanks be to God.**

JOYS, CONCERNS AND PASTORAL PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 3:7-14 (NRSV)

- 7 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?"
- 8 Bear 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.
- 9 Even 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."
- 10 And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?"
- 11 In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise."
- 12 Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?"

13 He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you."
14 Soldiers 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."

MESSAGE "We Are Called to Rejoice" Rev. Dongkue Jee

RESPOND TO THE WORD

* HYMN "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" UMH # 89

* THE LORD'S PRAYER UMH # 895

OFFERING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" UMH # 95

*PRAYER OF OFFERING Unison

God of our salvation, with a strong hand and mighty arm you save us from our foes and rejoice over us with gladness. How can we repay you for your love and grace? Receive our thanks and humble appreciation for all that you have given us which makes us what we are. Bless these gifts and offerings, that they may bring peace and hope to your people in need. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

*HYMN "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" UMH # 211

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

* The offering plate is located at the entrance of the sanctuary. Please feel free to participate.

* Fellowship follows the worship service. Please join us for refreshments and fellowship in the Parlor.



Welcome to
Mendham United Methodist Church

www.mendhamumc.org

10 East Main Street, Mendham, NJ 07945

The Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 15th, 2024



Classic Banner, Year C, Third Sunday of Advent, 1997,
Vanderbilt Divinity Library staff, Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN, United States

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