

THE ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP

December 17, 2017 AD

(Gaudete Sunday—the Third Sunday of Advent)

11:00 a.m.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

WELCOME

PRELUDE

INTROIT

Lord, Let Thine Advent Hasten'd

Robert Lehman

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Dan Florell family will light the Apostles Candle.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(Adapted from Luke 1:46a-53)

Leader: Our souls magnify the Lord;

People: And our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.

Leader: The Lord has brought down the powerful from their thrones;

People: Our God has lifted up the lowly.

Leader: The Lord has sent the rich away empty;

People: Our Savior has filled the hungry with good things.

Leader: Our Spirits rejoice in God our Savior;

People: And our souls magnify our Lord.

HYMN #15

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers
verses 1 and 3

LLANGLOFFAN

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God: we confess that we have not rejoiced in Your coming Kingdom. We have preferred to dwell in darkness and have shunned Your holy light. We try to hide our sin from You, from others, and from ourselves. We have made it easy for others to do wrong and hard for others to forgive us. We have also made it hard for us to forgive ourselves. Lord, have mercy and forgive us. Renew us, that we may welcome Jesus Christ as Lord of lords and King of kings, to Whom be glory forever. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

KYRIE #572

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

HYMN OF OUR YOUNG CHURCH (*insert*)

Canticle of the Turning

WORDS WITH OUR YOUNG CHURCH

Children ages K-3rd grade are now invited downstairs for Children's Worship.

ANTHEM *Lo, the Beginning* Praetorious/Schweitzer
Isaac Brooks, baritone soloist

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION
SCRIPTURE

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks Be to God.

SERMON

“A Neglected Gem”

Rev. Curtis Christian

*HYMN #17

"Sleepers, Wake!" A Voice Astounds Us!
verses 1 and 2

WACHET AUF

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Gloria

Gloria Patri

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Joy Offering

Melody Mitchell

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE

Amen

Lehman

OFFERINGS FOR THE MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH

OFFERTORY

Chimings of Great Joy
Memorial Handbell Choir

Dan R. Edwards

*DOXOLOGY #592

Old Hundredth

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

BEARING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN MEDLEY

#31 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
#38 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
(verses 1 and 2)

MENDELSSOHN

CAROL

#56 The First Nowell
(verses 1 and 2)

THE FIRST NOWELL

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

Lamb of God, the Heavens Adore You

WACHET AUF

POSTLUDE

*Those who are able, please stand

***Late Arrivals Seated

Today's Lay Reader is David Coleman.