



Sunday, December 15, 2024
Third Sunday of Advent

ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE

During the Prelude, you are invited to meditate on the Psalm of the Day as you prepare your heart and mind for worship.

PRELUDE

Fantasy in C Major BWV 570
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Ruth Pfister, Organ

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 79:9

Help us, God our Savior,
for the glory of your name;
deliver us and forgive our sins
for your name's sake.

WELCOME AND GATHERING PRAYER

Rev. Mark van Stee

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

Manuel Constam,
Vicky Lee & Greg Chun

***HYMN OF PRAISE #49** "Once in Royal David's City"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Nathan Wannemacher

Leader: Almighty God, you who shaped out of nothing all that is, forgive us for returning empty-handed.

People: You who called forth light, forgive our preference for the dark!

Leader: You who sent John to be a voice crying, forgive our unwillingness to say anything at all!

Leader: Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Leader: To God our savior be glory, majesty, power, and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: He is able to keep us from stumbling, and to present us before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy. Amen.

(based on Jude 24-25)

GOD'S WILL FOR OUR LIVES

Leader: For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people.

People: It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. (Titus 2:11-14)

***GLORIA PATRI #579 “Glory Be to the Father”**

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Esther 8:1-8 (p. 506)

Peter Chen

MEDITATION

“Comfort Ye.... Every Valley” from *Messiah*
Music: George Frideric Händel (1685-1759)

Nathan Haller, Tenor
Ruth Pfister, Organ

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Matthew 1:18-21 (pp. 965-966)

SERMON

“Females Who Foreshadowed:
What Esther Suggests to Us about Jesus, The Messiah”

Rev. Mark van Stee

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

***HYMN OF RESPONSE #53 “What Child Is This”**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS Annelies Guthman, Elder
for Adult Education & Retreats

OFFERTORY

“O Holy Night” (*Cantique de Noël*)
Music: Adolphe Adam (1803-1856)
Text: Placide Cappeau; trans. John Sullivan Dwight

Nathan Haller, Tenor
Ruth Pfister, Organ

***DOXOLOGY**

#592 “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Annelies Guthman

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(in unison in English or the language of your choice)*

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. Amen.

GOING WITH GOD'S MISSION AND BLESSING

WELCOMING OF GUESTS

Annelies Guthman

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Missionary Sending

Alisha Whiting

Chrischtehüsli

Blesson George

Jeff Anhut

***HYMN OF DEDICATION #16 "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"**

***SENDING AND PASTORAL BENEDICTION**

Rev. Mark van Stee

POSTLUDE

Choral Prelude on "Vom Himmel kam der Engel Schar"

Johann Heinrich Buttstedt (1666-1727)

Ruth Pfister, Organ

Please remain quietly seated during the postlude. If you need to leave, please do so quietly.

****Please stand if you are able.***

Today's bulletin cover art is the French painter Hugues Merle's Queen Esther (1875). A painter of the French realist movement, Merle chose later in his life to focus on religious themes.