

December 12, 2021 – 3rd Sunday of Advent

Prelude

Ringing of the Bells

Opening Hymn (Instrumental) - NCH 117 - "Lift Up Your Heads, O Might Gates" was written in 1641 as a celebratory announcement of the coming of Christ! The first verse closes with "The Sovereign One is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here!"

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Liturgist: Rejoice, give thanks; call on God's name; the Holy One is in our midst.

Congregation: How good it is to come home to God's house! How good it is to gather in Christ's presence.

Liturgist: Sing aloud! Exult with all your heart; the Sovereign One has done glorious things.

Congregation: We offer up our anxieties, seeking God's peace. We face our plenty, eager to share.

Liturgist: Shout your praise! Express your joy! The God of our salvation welcomes us.

Congregation: God's love is renewing us in these moments; God's strength is becoming our song!

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Hymn (Instrumental) - NCH 586 - "Come to tend God's Garden" encourages the listener to "Come to God's garden, seeds of hope to sow and in a land of tumult, cultivate God's peace!"

Old Testament Lesson – Zephaniah 3:14-20 – Israel is invited to sing and rejoice for the Lord will save, gather, and restore the people.

Sunday School Christmas Program - "A Super Christmas"

Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory - NCH 109 - "With Joy Draw Water" - Anne McKinstry used an Irish melody to say "A shoot has sprung from Jesse's tree, of God the chosen One. The Holy One is in your midst; glad praises sing and tell!"

Doxology

Gospel Lesson – Luke 3:7-18 – John the Baptist addresses the crowds who gather around him, and the crowds question him, "What shall we do?"

Closing Hymn (Instrumental) - NCH 506 - "What A Friend We Have in Jesus" was inspired by the Sermon on the Mount.

Benediction

Postlude