

WORSHIP HANDOUT

Sunday December 14th

Third Sunday of Advent

OPENING OF WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE “That Glorious Song of Old” by Tammy Waldrop
United Handbell Choir, with Isaac Becker-Howell, cello

*SONG OF WELCOME God Almighty, We Are Waiting W&S
3047(liturgist)

*CALL TO WORSHIP (liturgist)

Jeremiah said, “I am only a boy.”

Moses said, “Who am I to do this work?”

Mary said, “How can this be?”

We often say, “But God, I am afraid.”

Even when we are afraid, God invites us closer.

So may we trust the Inviter.

May we heed God’s invitation.

May we summon our courage and sing God’s praise.

Let us worship our courageous, inviting, calling God. Amen!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - Joy

L: In a world full of fear, where do you see
glimmers of joy?

**P: We see glimmers of joy in birthday
candles and homemade cards. We see joy
in the laughter of children and the delight
of grandparents. We see joy in meals
around the table and in the singing of**

Christmas songs.

L: You are right. Even in a fearful world, joy is all around us.

P: Today we light the candle of joy as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world, joy is here. Joy is real. We only have to look for it.

(Light candle. – 2 blue, 1 pink)

**P: Thanks be to God for that good news!
Amen.**

SONG AS CHILDREN GATHER Advent Song v 3 TFWS 2090
CHILDREN'S MOMENT
RECOGNIZING NEW MEMBERS

ANTHEM “Emmanuel, Come Soon” by Jordan/Angerman

Call to Confession (liturgist)

Friends, often in life, when we make mistakes, we want to keep those mistakes to ourselves. We don't want to advertise our blunders. We don't want to highlight our failings. We can be tempted to brush those things under the rug and move on.

But when it comes to God, there is nothing we need to brush under the rug.

God welcomes and loves our full, honest, messy selves—blunders and all.

So let us go before God in prayer, trusting that there is nothing we need to hide from our Creator. Let us pray.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (liturgist – unison)

**Courageous God,
you invite us to live into our call.
You invite us to act, to serve, and to trust.
Instead of responding with a resounding “yes,”
we often hide our face.
We dig our heels in.
We look for someone else to volunteer.
Spark courage in us.
Remind us that every person is capable of making a difference.
Remind us that even when we’re scared, we are not alone.
You invite us forward.
With baby steps we hope,
we pray,
amen.**

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS (liturgist)

Family of faith,
no matter where your path has led you in the past, today is a new day.
So join me in declaring this good news:
**We are known. We are forgiven! We are sent to serve.
May we step forward in faith, always moving closer to God’s
call. Amen.**

LESSON I Jeremiah 1:4-10 CEB (liturgist)

⁴ **The Lord’s word came to me:**
⁵ **“Before I created you in the womb I knew you;
before you were born I set you apart;
I made you a prophet to the nations.”**
⁶ **“Ah, Lord God,” I said, “I don’t know how to speak
because I’m only a child.”**
⁷ **The Lord responded,
“Don’t say, ‘I’m only a child.’
Where I send you, you must go;**

what I tell you, you must say.
⁸ Don't be afraid of them,
because I'm with you to rescue you,"
declares the Lord.
⁹ Then the Lord stretched out his hand,
touched my mouth, and said to me,
"I'm putting my words in your mouth.
¹⁰ This very day I appoint you over nations and empires,
to dig up and pull down,
to destroy and demolish,
to build and plant."

May God add a Blessing to this Reading.

*LESSON 2 Luke 1:26-39 CEB

²⁶ When Elizabeth was six months pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a city in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin who was engaged to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David's house. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ When the angel came to her, he said, "Rejoice, favored one! The Lord is with you!" ²⁹ She was confused by these words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said, "Don't be afraid, Mary. God is honoring you. ³¹ Look! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great and he will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father. ³³ He will rule over Jacob's house forever, and there will be no end to his kingdom."

³⁴ Then Mary said to the angel, "How will this happen since I haven't had sexual relations with a man?"

³⁵ The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come over you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the one who is to be born will be holy. He will be called God's

Son. ³⁶ Look, even in her old age, your relative Elizabeth has conceived a son. This woman who was labeled ‘unable to conceive’ is now six months pregnant. ³⁷ Nothing is impossible for God.”

³⁸ Then Mary said, “I am the Lord’s servant. Let it be with me just as you have said.” Then the angel left her.

³⁹ Mary got up and hurried to a city in the Judean highlands.

This is the Word of God for all people.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE Even In Our Fear, We are Called Forward

*SONG O Come, Take Heart

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

TIME OF PRAYER

SILENT AND PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD’S PRAYER

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 now and forever. Amen.

PRAYER HYMN Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus UMH 196

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***UNISON PRAYER**

Almighty God,
giver of every good and perfect gift,
teach us to give to you all that we have and all that we are,
that we may praise you not with our words only,
but with our whole lives. Amen.

RECEIVING COMMUNION

***BENEDICTION** It Came upon the Midnight Clear UMH 218 v 1&4

POSTLUDE