

**WORSHIP SERVICE**  
**December 13th, 2020**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**

**WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP**

Prelude

Welcome

\* God's Greeting

\* We Greet One Another

Advent Candle Lighting: Peace

On the first Sunday of Advent, we lit the candle of hope and were reminded to put our hope in God's promises of a peaceful kingdom. On the second Sunday of Advent, we lit the candle of love to represent God's love for us through the incarnation of our Savior, Jesus Christ. This morning we light the candle of peace. We wait for God's promises of peace on earth and good will to all. We pray that God's peace would break through our restless hearts and lead us to Bethlehem, where we can celebrate our Savior's birth. We light this candle of peace.

\* Opening Song: "Away In a Manger"

*Lift Up Your Hearts #86*

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay;  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.

I love you, Lord Jesus: look down from the sky  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay close  
by me forever and love me, I pray.

Bless all the dear children in your tender care;  
prepare us for heaven to live with you there.

\* Opening Prayer

**WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD**

Prayer of God's People (Based on Mary's Song in Luke 1:46-56)

*Our souls glorify you, O Lord, and our spirits rejoice in you, our Savior!*

*For you have been mindful of the humble state of your servants*

**You have heard our cry and saved your people.**

**We shall be called blessed because we are called by you to be a blessing to others.**

*Your mercy extends from generation to generation.*

*Your mercy saved Noah and his family from the flood.*

**Your mercy caused Sarah's womb to be fruitful.**

**Your mercy heard the Israelites' cry and called Moses to action.**

*Your mercy charged Mary with the most special of tasks.*

*Your mercy strengthened Joseph to care for her.*

**Your mercy sent Jesus Christ into the world to save us from the dark of night.**

**We give you thanks for your mercy; may it continue to shine upon us!**

**All: Restore us, O God, and make your face shine upon us that we might be saved.**

*We remember this day those who crave your shining face, who long for the light, who need your power to drive out the darkness:*

**For those who live with depression or other mental illnesses.**

*For those who cannot bring themselves to forgive others, or to forgive themselves.*

**For those who seek refuge, but have been denied shelter.**

*For those who have lost loved ones in the past year.*

**For those who have lost physical or mental abilities.**

*For those who care for aging spouses or loved ones.*

**For those who have been living with cancer and other debilitating illnesses.**

**All: Restore us, O God, and make your face shine upon us that we might be saved.**

*We ask that you would strengthen us as a congregation:*

**as we serve one another and those with whom you called us into fellowship,**

*as we seek to bring hospitality and hope to our community,*

**as we discern where you might be leading us,**

*as we hold in tension that which we have been with that which you call us to be,*

**as we seek to be the best stewards of the money and gifts with which we've been blessed,**

*as we search for the truth of your word and do our best to live it out in our lives,*

**as we wait, watch, and wonder in preparation for the coming of your Son.**

**All: Restore us, O God, and make your face shine upon us that we might be saved.**

*Gracious God, on this Advent journey, may we wait with Mary's joyful anticipation as we prepare to welcome your Son, our Savior, into this broken world in need of his redeeming. Gather us, guide us, and keep us as your people. Send us into the world so that our hands might be Christ's own, and his mind one with ours in all that you would have us do.*

**All: Restore us, O God, and make your face shine upon us that we might be saved. Amen.**

## **WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:26-45

Message: "Be Not Afraid: The Fear of Revision"

## **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

Prayer of Application

## **WE DEPART TO SERVE**

\* Closing Song: "My Soul Cries Out With a Joyful Shout" (vs. 1-3)

*Lift Up Your Hearts #69*

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,  
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,  
so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?

**REFRAIN:** My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn!

Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,  
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,  
you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn. **REFRAIN**

From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.  
Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne.  
The hungry poor shall weep no more for the food they can never earn;  
There are tables spread, every mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. **REFRAIN**

\* Blessing

\* Closing Song: "My Soul Cries Out With a Joyful Shout" (vs. 4)

*Lift Up Your Hearts #69*

Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:  
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.  
This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,  
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around.

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn!

\* Postlude

\* Please stand if you are able

Message: Rev. Randy Raak

Musicians: Andrew Friend, Laura Hufford, Avery Irvin