

WE GATHER IN CHRIST'S NAME

GATHERING MUSIC

L'Orgue Mystique
Dominica III Adventus

Charles Tournemire

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CENTERING SILENCE

The Rev. Dr. James Butler

* ADVENT INTROIT

***O come, Desire of Nations, bind all people in one heart and mind.
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease, fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.***

* OPENING RESPONSES (Song of Zechariah)

The Rev Dr. Arvid Whitmore

Blessed is the Lord, the God of Israel, who comes and sets us free.

It is God who visits and redeems us and grants us liberty.

From the house of David a child of grace was given.

A Savior came among us to raise us up to heaven.

The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release.

O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease.

Blessed is the Lord our God.

And blessed is God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

* HYMN 113

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

GLORIA

* ACCLAMATION AND PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Beloved in Christ: God is with us!

We are not alone!

CALL TO CONFESSION AND SILENT REFLECTION

UNISON CONFESSION

Beloved God, even though we sing "let every heart prepare him room," we continue to refuse you entrance. There are people we refuse to welcome, resentments we will not release, destructive habits we will not discard, and good things we still have not done. Forgive us, and set us free to love and serve you above all else; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-9

(Pew Bible, O.T. p.640)

SOLO

Be Still, My Soul

arr. Brian D. Petersen

Lucie Freeman, mezzo soprano

Be still my soul, the Lord is on thy side. With patience bear thy cross of grief or pain. Leave to thy God to order and provide. In every change he faithful will remain. Be still my soul. Thy best, thy heavenly Friend. Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end. Be still my soul, thy God doth undertake to guide the future as He hath the past. Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake. All now mysterious shall be bright at last. Be still my soul, the waves and winds still know His voice who ruled them while he dwelt below. Be still my soul, the hour is hastening on. When we shall be forever with the Lord. When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone, sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored. Be still my soul, when change and tears are past. All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

* GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 1:5-25

(Pew Bible, N.T. p.56)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE AT THE ADVENT WREATH

SUNG BLESSING

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

Bless all the dear children in thy tender care.

And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

SERMON

"It's in the Mail—Seriously"

Dr. Butler

"In that day the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the water covers the sea."

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

* HYMN 109

"Blest Be the God of Israel"

MERLE'S TUNE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY

Still, Still, Still
Handbell Choir

Arr. Cathy Moglebust

* DOXOLOGY (Hymn 606)

*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.*

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

* HYMN 146

"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* DEPARTING MUSIC

Tocatta in g

Johann Pachelbel

The people are welcome to depart or remain seated while the Departing Music is played.

Our Mission

To extend the gracious welcome of God in Jesus Christ through worship, service and spiritual growth in a supportive community of faith.

Staff

The Rev. Dr. James Butler, Pastor
The Revs Dr. Steve and Dr. Cinda Gorman, Parish Associates
Dr. Kaori Hongo, Minister of Music
Aliyah Kennedy, Director of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry
Sara Gresh, Secretary and Financial Secretary
Kimberly Hook, Childcare Provider and Evening Receptionist
Carolyn Fordosi, Housekeeper
Scott Schreiber, Maintenance Custodian
Margaret Limkemann, Minister of Music Emerita



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024

10 a.m.
