

Order of Worship

We are caring believers who grow, share, and live out our faith in Christ.

3rd Sunday in Advent

December 11, 2022

10:00 A.M.

PRELUDE

John DiPinto, piano

WELCOME

Pastor Sayer

Our Approach to God

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Eng Family

Leader: On this third Sunday of Advent, we light a candle of gratitude.

People: God has given us the great privilege of being citizens of the Kingdom of God.

Leader: Because of that privilege we have the gifts of joy, hope, peace and meaning.

People: God has included us in a life beyond what we might otherwise have hoped for.

Leader: And so, in this season when we re-anticipate the coming of the Savior into the world, we rejoice at our relationship with that Savior.

People: We live in deep gratitude. What we do and what we think spring from that well of thanks.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

*HYMN

"Hark, What a Sound"

screen

CALL TO WORSHIP

from Isaiah 11

Leader: Get help from the God of Jacob, put your hope in God and know real blessing!

People: God made sky and soil, sea and all the fish in it. He always does what He says.

Leader: He defends the wronged; He feeds the hungry. God frees prisoners—He gives sight to the blind. He lifts up the fallen, protects strangers, takes the side of orphans and widows, but makes short work of the wicked.

People: God's in charge—always. Zion's God is God for good! Hallelujah!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, sometimes we get into a strange mode in our lives and our faith. We trudge through our days. We're Christians; we identify as people who follow Jesus. But it doesn't captivate us. Our calling as Jesus-people doesn't astound us. It merely is – it's part of our existence. And so, we apologize to You, God, for not being amazed at the chance to be one of Your people, through Christ. Amen.

HEARING OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

LIVING THANKFULLY AS FORGIVEN PEOPLE

CHANCEL CHOIR

"People Look East"

arr. Helvey

The Word of God

GREETING EACH OTHER IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

*HYMN

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

screens

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 11:2-11

p. 11 (NT)

SERMON

"A Real Privilege"

Pastor Sayer

PRAYER FOR BLESSING ON THE WORD

Our Response to God

OFFERING

JOYS, THANKS AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

THE GENERAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

*HYMN

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

#278

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

John DiPinto, piano

PLEASE REMAIN IN THE SANCTUARY following worship for our Annual Congregational Meeting in the sanctuary.

PRAYER CONCERNS: Anonymous; Lynn Baker; Christian Brueck; Deanna & Roger Carman; Marilyn Clark; Harold Friedeman; Janet Kosack; Nancy Lanzalotto; Ed Serrano; Richard Smyth; Craig Terjanian.

THE UNITY PRAYER: Lord, we pray that we not get so wrapped in the giving of presents but in the receiving of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus.

THE FLOWERS are given by the Macerone family in loving memory of Artie and by Wini Kinkele in loving memory of her husband, Walter.

FLOWER ENVELOPES are in the pews for your convenience in contributing to our Christmas poinsettia display. Checks should be made payable to Guild for Christian Service. You may place them in the offering plate along with your regular offering.

THIS WEEK

Monday 7:45 Bell Choir
Wednesday 6:30 Deborah Circle @ Dages' Home
7:30 Property Committee
Thursday 7:30 Chancel Choir
7:30 Choir

Sunday, December 18, 2022

4th Sunday in Advent
10:00 AM Christmas Musicale
Puppet Club and Sunday School
Lunch in Founders' Hall
12 noon – Live Nativity

THE CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE will not meet in the month of December.

COOKIE BAKERS WANTED! We are looking for Christmas cookie bakers to bake 1 – 3 dozen cookies for the Live Nativity on December 18. Cookies can be dropped off at the church on the morning of the 18th. Storebought or bakery cookies are welcome too. Look for the sign-up sheet or contact Liz Budinich at liz@southave.net.

THE RAMSEY WIND SYMPHONY will be performing a free concert at Tenafly High School on this afternoon, Sunday, December 11 at 2 PM.

JOIN US FOR OUR CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES which will be held on Saturday, December 24th at 7 and 11 PM, with a children's message at the 7 PM service.

HELPERS are needed to set up the luminaries on Saturday, December 24 at 10 AM and then to light them at 6 PM. Please let Chris Novak or Sanae Tomita know if you are able to help.

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**The Live Nativity Returns!
A Family Christmas Afternoon**

We are presenting the Live Nativity on Sunday, December 18 from 12:00 - 2:00 PM with a Nativity performance beginning at 12:30 PM. We are excited to reach out to the community in the name of Jesus -- giving people the opportunity to focus on their relationship with Christ.

This is a special Christmas afternoon with something for everyone. All children are invited to participate as an angel or shepherd and should arrive by 12:00 PM for costuming. Then the fun begins at the petting zoo --including a cow, sheep, goat, donkey and even a camel. There will be music, cookies and a cup of hot cocoa while sharing meaningful moments with family, friends, and neighbors.

Everyone has an important role to play in this Christmas event. Help us get out the word by telling a neighbor, inviting family, or bringing a poster to a local business. These will be available in the narthex. See you there!

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