

Celebration of the Lord's Day

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2017

*We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning.
As the candles are lit and the baptismal waters are poured, let us recognize God's presence among us.*

Prelude Hyoun Joo Song

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Andy Acton

Introit "Two Manger Carols" PHPC Handbell Choir
arr. M.L. Thompson
Jennifer Falk, flute and Jennie Sankey, oboe

***Call to Worship** (from *Just One Year: A Global Treasury of Prayer & Worship*) Andy

Leader: From the hungry comes the message that all will be filled.
People: Make straight the road. Prepare the way of the Lord.
 Leader: From the thirsty comes the news that all will be satisfied.
People: Make straight the road. Prepare the way of the Lord.
 Leader: From the lame comes the dance that all will perform.
People: Make straight the road. Prepare the way of the Lord.
 Leader: From the blind comes the vision that all will follow.
People: Make straight the road. Prepare the way of the Lord.
 Leader: From the poor comes the wealth that all will share.
People: Make straight the road. Prepare the way of the Lord.
 Leader: From the oppressed comes the freedom that all will know.
People: Make straight the road. Prepare the way of the Lord.
 Leader: Out of the wilderness, joy. Out of the earth, water.
 Out of the darkness, light. Out of the shadows, vision.
 Out of the suffering, life. Out of the woman, child.
People: Make straight the road. Prepare the way of the Lord.
 Leader: For a child comes to lead his people. And all creation will know it together.
People: Make straight the road. Prepare the way of the Lord.

***Hymn 96** (tune 152) "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"
 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh;
 Awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!
 Then cleansed be every life from sin; make straight the way for God within,
 And let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.
 We hail you as our Savior, Lord, our refuge and our great reward.
 Without your grace, we waste away like flowers that wither and decay.
 Stretch forth our hand; our health restore, and make us rise and fall no more;
 O let your face upon us shine and fill the world with love divine.

Lighting of the Advent Candle Rev. Jody Andrade
All: With John the Baptist, who was sent from God to be a witness to testify to the light, we shout, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord.'"

Hymn 95 "Prepare the Way of the Lord"
 Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord,
 and all people will see the salvation of our God. (repeat)

Today's bulletin cover art is by Hannah Garrity of *A Sanctified Art*.

In a reflection on the piece, inspired by John 1:6-8, 19-28, Hannah writes:

"John the Baptist arrived to pave the way for Jesus' work, to make the path straight.

He baptized with water.

He foretold a baptism of the Holy Spirit.

He led people toward the work of the gospel.

He inspired people to join the path that Jesus would tread—

to remove the underbrush, to mat down the grass.

He told of what was to come.

He was all of these things and more.

He was the voice crying out in the wilderness.

(continued)

Anthem (8:30) "Joy to the World" PHPC Handbell Choir
arr. Valerie Stephenson

Children's Sermon Andy
Distribution of Worship Bags and Laundry Love Collection

Prayers Rev. Jennie Sankey

Silent Prayer
Pastoral Prayer
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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 61: 1-4 Jennie

Anthem (11:00) "Carol of the Birds" Chancel Choir
arr. Craig Courtney

New Testament Reading John 1: 1-9, 19-28 Jennie
(*Pew Bible, p. 966; Spark Story Bible, p. 234-239*)

Sermon "Let There Be a Witness" Andy

***Affirmation of Faith** (excerpt from PC(USA)'s "A Brief Statement of Faith")
 In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask the idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of people long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

***Hymn 100** "My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout"

Offering Please take a moment to sign the registration pad in your pew.

Prayer of Dedication Jody
Offertory (8:30) "O Little Town of Bethlehem" Hyoun Joo
arr. Joel Raney

(11:00) "Joy to the World" PHPC Handbell Choir
arr. Valerie Stephenson

Response Hymn 606 "Doxology"

***Benediction** Andy

Postlude "In Dulci Jubilo" Hyoun Joo
J. S. Bach

How would you answer the same questions asked of John the Baptist:
 Who are you?
 What do you say about yourself?

"I am an artist. I am a mother and a wife, a daughter and a sister. I condemn hate and profess love. I am not perfect; I seek to understand. I am inspired by the work of the gospel, the mindset of love. I am disenchanted by the contradictions in the Bible, in my life, and in the world around me. I aspire to humility. I struggle with my faith, yet I struggle on. I am all of these things and more. I am a voice crying out in the wilderness. I am trying to make the path straight."

Who are you?
 What do you say about yourself?
 How are you a voice of one crying out in the wilderness?"

*A minister is available in the Prayer Chapel for one-on-one prayer following the worship service.
Please stand in body or spirit