

# First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day  
3rd Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2015

10:00 a.m.

## ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music  
Concerns of the Church  
Prelude

“In the Bleak Mid-Winter”

Setting, Koch

Call to Worship

Zephaniah 3:17

The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory.

**God will rejoice over you with gladness.**

The Lord will renew you in his love;

**God will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival.**

\* Hymn 362

“Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers”

*Ushers will collect prayer request cards from the center aisle.*

\* Call to Confession

\* Prayer of Confession

**In your presence, Holy God,**

**we confess that we need repentance.**

**We have broken your commands against idolatry.**

**We do not live in peace with your creation or your people.**

**We have not trusted your word, and we are afraid.**

**Forgive us, restore us, and turn our shame into praise,  
for the sake of the One who proclaims the good news  
and for the sake of all the world.**

\* Silent Confession

\* Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace

\* Response (Hymnal 95)

**Prepare the way of the Lord! Prepare the way of the Lord,  
And all people will see the salvation of our God.**

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Response (Hymnal 85, verse 3)

**Light three candles to watch for Messiah;**

**let the light banish darkness.**

**Lift your heads and lift high the gateway for the King of glory.**

## PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Philippians 4:4-7 (NT, p. 198)

Second Lesson: Isaiah 12:2-6 (Hymnal 71)

A Time with Children

Anthem

Gospel Lesson: Luke 3:7-18 (NT, p. 60)

Sermon: “If the Advent Candle Scorches Your Soul”

Rev. Carter

## RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

\* Hymn 123 “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”

\* Affirmation of Faith: Apostles’ Creed (Hymnal, p. 35)

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory

“Veni, Emmanuel”

Peeters

\* Doxology (606)

\* Prayer of Dedication

## GO IN GOD'S NAME

\* Hymn 132

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

\* Charge and Benediction

\* Postlude "Vom Himmel Hoch"

arr. Burkhardt

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\* All who are able shall stand.

**The flowers** this morning have been given to the glory of God by Suzanne Pringle in loving memory of her grandmother, Romaine Weight.

Lighting the Advent Wreath today are Chris, Jennifer and Crosby Sekol.

**PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

|                   |                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Pastor            | Rev. William G. Carter   |
| Director of Music | Frank Jones              |
| Organist          | Nancy Post               |
| Liturgist         | Robin Pinches            |
| Ushers            | Gwynne Gilbert           |
| Welcomer          | Barbara and Jack Pittman |



*We are a Stephen Ministry congregation.*

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THIRD SUNDAY OF  
**ADVENT**

***Philippians 4:4-7***

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

***Luke 3:7-18***

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with

the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.