

**Third Sunday of Advent**  
10:00 a.m. December 17, 2023

Entering God's Presence      *I Wonder As I Wonder*      John Jacob Niles  
   *Christmas Carol Medley*  
   Holly Avesian, harp

Welcome, Life in the Community, and Ritual of Friendship

\*Hymn 133                      ***O Come, All Ye Faithful***                      ADESTE FIDELES

\*Expressing Our Anticipation

*Leader: As quietly as the winter steals upon us, the season of joy approaches.*

***People: We wait for our Redeemer, for God's promise to be fulfilled.***

*Leader: The day is coming quickly. The God of mercy draws near.*

***People: Therefore we wait with joy, attentive to all the signs of his coming.***

(Congregation seated.)

Introit                      *God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen*                      English Christmas Carol  
   Graham Parker, violin

Invitation to Self-Examination and Confession of Our Need for God's Forgiveness (unison)

***God, with unhurried gentleness you draw near us, bidding us lift our eyes to the infinite stars and open them to ordinary wonders all around us. We see the waning sun, the dazzle of holiday display, each other's weary faces, and we know that we have seen this all before. We cannot claim a breathless anticipation of the birth of your Son. From the prophet's good news to the shepherd's joyful witness, we have heard it all before. The season is familiar and holds no surprises. God, remind us that your power and love are both ancient and ever new. Help us to recognize the love borne into the world at each moment. Then with glad hearts may we welcome your Son, before whom even the desert blooms and rejoices.***

Time of Silence and Personal Confession

Musical Response      ***What Child Is This***                      GREENSLEEVES

*What Child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping?*

*Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, While shepherds watch are keeping?*

*This, this is the Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;*

*Haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the son of Mary!*

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

\*Hymn 97                      ***Watchman, Tell Us of the Night***                      ABERYSTWYTH

Matthew 1:18-25 (NRSV) [You will find the text on page 1 in the pew Bible.]

Anthem                      ***Call to Advent***                      Jerome Williams

Matthew 2:13-15 (NRSV) [You will find the text on page 2 in the pew Bible.]

Sermon                      ***Coming of the Light: Joseph***                      The Rev. Vance Polley

\*The Apostle's Creed (*Traditional Version*, Page 35) and ***Gloria Patri*** (No. 581)

Ministry of Prayer [Text prayer requests to: (843) 437-4239]

Dedicating our Gifts and Tithes ~ ***See [oursunrise.org](http://oursunrise.org) to give securely online***

(In the *Offering*, we dedicate our lives and a portion of the resources God has entrusted to us.  
Your gifts may be dedicated online, by mail, or in-person.)

Offertory                      *Sussex Carol* (Traditional English Carol)                      arr. Dale Wood  
   Harp and Organ

\*At the Presentation                      ***Doxology*** (No. 606)                      OLD HUNDREDTH

Prayer of Dedication, concluding with *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.***

\*Hymn 123                      ***It Came Upon the Midnight Clear***                      CAROL

\*Benediction

\*Choral Benediction      ***While We Are Waiting, Come*** (Hymn 92)

\*Going Out into the World

\*Those that are able, please stand.

**We welcome** guest musician Holly Avesian.