

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

December 12th, 2021

“THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT”

“COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERIES”

Liturgical Color – Purple



DALLAS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TODAY'S CENTERING MEDITATION

***“The LORD your God is in your midst—a warrior bringing victory.
He will create calm with his love;
he will rejoice over you with singing.”***

~ Zephaniah 3:17 ~

“Produce fruit that shows you have changed your hearts and lives.”

~ Luke 3:8a ~

* Please stand in stature or in heart as you are able.

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PRELUDE ... ***A TIME TO FOCUS OUR THOUGHTS AND HEARTS ON KING JESUS***

PROCLAMATION

COME HOME

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

196 (verse 1)

OPENING PRAYER

* CALL TO WORSHIP:

Good friends, Rejoice. God is with you.

**Even though we are imperfect and too often have turned our backs on God,
still God is with us.**

God's love is forever. You are beloved.

Even when we behave in ways which are contrary to what God would have us do.

God forgives and loves you and seeks your well-being.

Praise be to God for such wondrous love. Amen.

* *Angels from the Realms of Glory*

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LIGHTING OF THE FIRST, SECOND, AND THIRD ADVENT CANDLE:

Today we light three candles- the first Candle is called HOPE.

It reminds us that Christ is our HOPE

The second Candle is called PEACE.

It reminds us of God's gentle loving PEACE for our lives.

The third Candle is called JOY, because of God's absolute presence in our lives.

Come, all is ready.

**May the light of this these candles, called HOPE, PEACE, and JOY,
bring brightness to our spirits. Amen.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CORPORATE CONFESSION & MOMENTS OF SILENCE FOR PERSONAL CONFESSION:

**It is getting more and more difficult, Lord,
for us to keep our attention on the holy things.
Our lives are caught up in the planning, parties, gifts, and other such things.
We get side-tracked too easily and exhausted, we fall into restless sleep.
The cries of those in need abound and we are overwhelmed by the need.
Too often we turn a deaf ear because we feel
we just can't meet all the needs that are presented to us.
Heal our hearts and spirits, Lord.
Help us understand that you do not ask us to heal everything
but rather to find a simple way in which we might lighten someone else's burden,
as you have lightened our lives.
You have brought hope and peace to us.
Now cause us to rejoice in the wondrous things that you have done.
Teach us to use our gifts for the common good,
and that in helping, we find great and abundant joy.
In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PARDON

Special Selection

Tom and Nancy Musso

* A CHRISTMAS AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: written by Rev. Stephen M. Fearing – www.stephenmfearing.com

**We believe that God has come to us as a little child,
making our weakness his strength,
securing our salvation by becoming one of us,
blessing us with a steadfast savior,
filling our hearts with joy to be shared with one another.**

**We believe that God has birthed righteousness and justice into the world,
giving us a law that will be written upon our hearts,
making the cause of the oppressed the highest priority,
declaring an everlasting reign of peace,
defeating the power of pain and suffering.**

**We believe that God calls us to participate in this reality of love,
inviting us to proclaim Christ's resurrection at the Table,
transforming us as disciples to go out into the world,
sending us forth to announce his kingdom of peace and comfort,
challenging us to see everyone as nothing less than beloved children.**

**This we believe. This we preach.
This we seek to embody in word and deed.
Amen and Amen.**

JESUS LOVES THE LITTLE CHILDREN

**Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world.
Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in his sight.
Jesus loves the little children of the world.**

CHILDREN'S CHAT

Nancy Musso

WHERE CHILDREN BELONG

2233 (sing twice)

**This, this is where children belong,
Welcomed as part of the worshiping throng.
Water, God's Word, bread and cup, prayer and song:
This is where children belong.**

TIME OF PRAYER / THE LORD'S PRAYER:

(Ecumenical Text)

**Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done on Earth, as it is in Heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

GOD'S WORD:

Zephaniah 3:14-20 ... Luke 3:7-18

(The Liturgist says: "This is the Word of God for ALL people" ... AND ... The People respond: "Thanks BE to God"

TODAY'S MESSAGE:

"THE JOY OF HOME"

Nancy Musso

THE PRAYER OF SAINT FRANCIS

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;

where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

and where there is sadness, joy.

O, Divine Master,

grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;

to be understood, as to understand;

to be loved, as to love;

for it is giving that we receive,

it is pardoning that we are pardoned,

and it is dying that we are born to eternal life.

* *There's a Song in the Air*

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* PRAYER FOR OFFERING OUR LIVES, OUR TITHES, AND OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

God who gives all gifts,

in this season, we focus so much on giving gifts to one another.

Help us, we pray, to remember what John the Baptist tells us is on your wish list:

that we might bear fruit worthy of the repentance that is the very heart of this season:

fruit of compassion, fruit of sharing, fruit by denying ourselves

so that others who have little will have enough.

In response to you, we give that our fruit might please you.

In the Savior's name, we pray. Amen

* BENEDICTION ... followed by ... *Let There Be Peace on Earth ...*

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