

Fairlawn Christian Reformed Church  
**THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

December 11, 2016      10:15 A.M.

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**PREPARATION AND PRAISE**

Prelude: "Sing We Now of Christmas"  
"Hark! The Glad Sound"

Kerrick  
Burkhardt

**ENTER HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING**

Silent Prayer and Preparation

\* Call to Worship:                      Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,

**who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion,  
"Your God reigns."**

Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy;

**for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion.**

Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem;

**for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.**

The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations;

**and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.**

\* Hymn: PH 335                      "Hark, the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes"

RICHMOND

\* God's Greeting:

Grace and peace be to you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**Who made heaven and earth.**

Blessed be God,

**And blessed is his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Choral Anthem: "Arise and Shine"

Rentz

Advent Reading: Isaiah 9:2; 11:1–3

**All: In this season of Advent, we look for Christ to come and bring his light to our dark world.**

Reader 1: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

Reader 2: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them has light shined.

Reader 1: A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

Reader 2: And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest on him.

**All: His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.**

Response: PH 342, vv. 1-3      “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”      DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

## CONFESSION AND PRAYER

Call to Confession:      Matthew 3:1–2

Prayer of Confession:

**Lord, as we celebrate your nearness, help us to draw near to you. If you do not prompt us, we will not confess. If you do not pull us, we will not come. If you do not forgive us, we will not be saved. So work in our hearts that we will say, “May your kingdom come and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon:      Isaiah 44:21–22

God’s Will for Our Lives:      II Peter 3:10–12a

Choral Anthem: “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”      arr. Wilcox

Ordination and Installation of Office Bearers: PH 1004

Congregational Prayer

## THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

\* Hymn: PH 351      “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”      ES IST EN ROS  
[Children age 3 - grade Pre-K may leave after the hymn.]

\* Prayer

Scripture Reading:

Isaiah 35:1–10 (p. 709); Matthew 11:1–11 (p. 965)

Sermon: *What Sort of Kingdom Is Coming?*

Theme: Immanuel’s Life-Improving Presence

Prayer

**Incarnate Lord, why do we easily consider our bodies as shameful or something to get beyond, when you’re quite fond of them? Forgive us for trying to be more spiritual than you are by denying our human earthiness. Overtake us with joy that you have come physically to this world, taking a face and sharing our flesh, for truly being our Immanuel, “God with us.” Amen.**

\* Hymn: Bulletin p. 4

“When the King Shall Come Again”

GAUDEAMUS PARITER/AVE VIRGO VIRGINUM

## THE OFFERING OF TRIBUTE

\* Offertory Prayer

Offerings: Fairlawn General Fund

Offertory: “While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night”

Graham

## BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

\* Blessing:

Celtic Daily Prayer

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you, wherever He may send you.

May He guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm.

May He bring you home rejoicing at the wonders He has shown you.

May He bring you home rejoicing once again into our doors.

\* Benediction:

Philippians 4:7

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

\* Doxology: Bulletin p. 5, verse 4 only

“How Great Our Joy”

JUNGST

This gift of God we'll cherish well, that ever joy our hearts shall fill.

Refrain: How great our joy! Great our joy!

Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!

Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!

Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!

\* Postlude: “Echo Noel”

D'Aquin