

Fairlawn Christian Reformed Church
THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 17, 2017 10:15 A.M.

PREPARATION AND PRAISE

Prelude: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
"On Christmas Night"
"Away in the Manger"

Thomas
Paxton
Scott

Welcome and Announcements

ENTER HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING

Advent Candle Lighting:

Reader 1: In this season of anticipation, our hearts are filled with peace.

Reader 2: God's grace, mercy, and peace have come to us in Jesus Christ.

Reader 1: God has sent His messenger to proclaim comfort and peace,

Reader 2: to prepare a way for Christ's coming in our rugged hearts and lives.

Reader 1: He will be our shepherd, to guide us graciously in the strength of the Lord.

Reader 2: Those who trust in the Savior will find rest for our souls.

Reader 1: They will live securely, for then his greatness will reach the ends of the earth.

Reader 2: And he will be their peace.

* Carol: "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

PH 340

* God's Greeting:

Lift up your heads, O gates!

And be lifted up, O ancient doors that the King of glory may come in.

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

Amen.

Praise be to God!

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who has visited and redeemed the people.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Blessed be the name of the Lord.

* Prayer of the Day:

Lord God, when your Son, Jesus, was born on this earth, the angels proclaimed peace on earth and goodwill to those on whom your favor rested. Fill our hearts with that same peace today, a peace that is not as the world gives, but that comes only from you. Set our hearts at rest before you today, so that at the coming of your Son, our Lord, we may not be troubled or afraid. We pray in the name of the Prince of Peace, Amen.

CONFESSION AND PRAYER

Call to Confession

Response: "Savior of the Nations, Come" PH 336, v. 1

Prayer of Confession

Response: "Savior of the Nations, Come" PH 336, vv. 4, 6

Assurance of Pardon: based on Isaiah 40: 1–2

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Your sins are pardoned. The penalty is paid.

Thanks be to God.

Response: "Savior of the Nations, Come" PH 336, v. 7

God's Will for Our Lives: Responsive Reading of the Law PH 1014

* Response: "Prepare the Way of the Lord"

Congregational Prayer

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

* Hymn: "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" PH 356

Children's Message

Prayer for Illumination

[Children age 3 - grade Pre-K may leave for Children's Church after the prayer.]

Scripture Reading: John 1:19–28 (p. 1049)

Sermon: *Finding Your Voice*

Prayer

* Hymn: "Once in Royal David's City" PH 346

OUR RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE

* Offertory Prayer

Offering: Fairlawn General Fund

Offertory: "Angels We Have heard on High" arr. Wallace

Response to Offering: "In the Bleak Midwinter" CRANHAM

What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;

yet what I can I give him: give him my heart.

* Confession of Faith: The Apostles' Creed (inside front cover of the Psalter Hymnal)

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

* Benediction: based on Philipians 4:7

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

* Doxology: "Angels We Have Heard on High"

PH 347, v. 3

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Glo-ria in excelsis Deo.
Glo-ria in excelsis Deo.

* Postlude: "Joy to the World"

Handel
