

**Trinity Presbyterian Church  
December 17, 2023 A.D.  
The Third Sunday in Advent**

**Rev. Dr. Murray Joseph Thompson - Pastor**

Gathering Music  
Welcome & Announcements  
Prelude

L: Walk with God, walk beside God, walk in fellowship with God in this glorious season of Advent.

***P: We know the flesh is weak, but God is the strength of our hearts.***

L: As his command was given to Abraham, he was told that wonderful name of the Lord. The One who is the Almighty God, the God who is the great I Am.

***P: He is our eternal strength, and with Him we can walk this day and everyday with hearts filled with faith. Therefore, let us worship Him this day joyfully! Amen.***

Call to Confession

L: The Lord be with you.

***P: And also with you.***

L: Together, with boldness, let us confess our sins unto the Lord who hears all. Let us pray . . .

In Unison: ***Comfort us now most Holy God, speak tenderly to us and hear our cry. For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Lord, we come before you broken and repentant. O God heal our brokenness and forgive us of our sins, we most earnestly pray. Amen.***

**Pastor:** Friends, hear the Good News! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. Amen.

\*Our Response

***What a Friend We have in Jesus***

***What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer! O what  
peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, all because  
we do not carry everything to God in prayer!***

Lighting of the Advent Wreath The Yurko Family

Christmas Presentation: History of Hymns

\*Hymn - ***O Come, All Ye Faithful #41***

The Morning Scripture Lesson: Luke 3:1-6  
John the Baptist Prepares the Way

**3** In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene— <sup>2</sup> during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>4</sup> As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.

<sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low.  
The crooked roads shall become straight,  
the rough ways smooth.

<sup>6</sup> And all people will see God’s salvation.’

Message: ***The Word Becomes Flesh Again: In Praise of Our Christian Family Heritage***

\*Hymn - ***It Came Upon the Midnight Clear #38***

The Invitation to Communion (Elements to be served Plated)

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

Offertory

\*Doxology (Hymn #592)

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, Praise him all creatures here below. Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.***

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

\*Sending forth and Benediction

\*Choral response           ***God be with You Till We Meet Again***

***God be with you till we meet again, by His counsel guide, uphold you, with His sheep securely fold you, God be with you till we meet again. Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet; till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.***

Postlude

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Liturgist: Wayne Williams

Head Deacons: Karin Thompson & Michele Steele

Rev. Dr. Murray Joseph Thompson

Music Director: Pamela Carroll

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***“Called to Serve and to Witness”***  
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