

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Sunday, December 16, 2018
Third Sunday of Advent

ENTRANCE

The people come together in the Lord's name.

PRELUDE

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST AMONG US

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say Rejoice!

All: Our joy is in the Lord who blesses us.

One: Shout for joy, for the Lord is near!

All: Our praises ascend to God for the mighty things God has done.

One: Let your praise dance and swirl in tribute to God!

All: Come, Loving God, fill our hearts with joy.

One: Let us pray together...

*OPENING PRAYER

Lord, we have come to this place from a world of demands and schedules. We have sought hope and peace and have found them here. Now we seek the inner joy that only your presence can bring to our lives. Open our hearts and our spirits to your love. May we come and worship Christ the King in whose name we pray. Amen.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

Angels from the Realms of Glory

UMH 220

COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

UMH 895

CHORAL AMEN

PROCLAMATION

The Scriptures are opened to the people.

HYMN OF PREPARATION

Angels, We Have Heard on High

UMH 238

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 12:2-6

OT 607

CHILDREN'S SERMON

ANTHEM

Tis the Season for Singing

Joseph Martin

SCRIPTURE

Philippians 4:4-7

NT 183

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

One: The LORD has done great things for us, and we are overjoyed. ... Let those who plant with tears reap the harvest with joyful shouts. (from Psalm 126)

All: God of Joy, you enter the wilderness of our world and proclaim that there is a way to reach home again.

One: God of Joy, you break through clouds of despair and sorrow to bring good news to your people. You send hope into the world in the form of a tiny baby.

All: We, God's people, sing songs of joy with the prophet, "I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God" (from Isaiah 61).

One: On this third Sunday of Advent, we light this candle, knowing that joy is our true home.

All: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

One: Let us lift our voices in joy as we sing.

ADVENT SONG

Light the Advent Candle (vv. 1, 2 and 3)

TFWS 2090

RESPONSE

The people respond with acts of commitment and faith.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 3:7-18

NT 55

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SERMON

OFFERING

Offertory

*Doxology

Gloria

UMH 238

BLESSING OF THE GIFTS

One: Giving God, we seek to mirror your generous spirit as we receive your gifts gratefully and we give our gifts freely. We dedicate our *offering* this morning to the work of your church: serving human wholeness, caring for our planet, welcoming the stranger, and loving one another.

All: We give thanks to you for helping us weave a tapestry of caring and action, faith and fellowship, hope and wholeness. Help us to continue supporting your church in this way and move us by your Holy Spirit to represent you in all that we do.

One: We dedicate these *angel gifts* to you and affirm the work of your people and our lives within this church. May each gift be a reminder of your love as it is received, and may each child be blessed in a way that draws them to you.

All: We give thanks to you for the children and the giving hearts who have provided for them in this giving season. We are your church, Lord. We are what Church means inside these walls and what Church stands for out in the world. Help us continue the work you have set before us in this community and beyond.

One: We dedicate these *angel gowns* to your glory. Each one has been created with love and compassion. May the families and friends who receive them feel the warmth and kindness in which they are given, and may each gown help to ease the pain of their loss. Most of all, Lord, may those who are hurting feel your peaceful presence in the upcoming days.

All: We give thanks to you for the love you share with us. Help us to remember that you are present in suffering and walk alongside of us in our pain. Help us also continue working to lessen the burdens of others when they hurt.

One: Giving God, we know the abundance of our lives is a gift from you that exceeds all our expectations. We can never match your generosity, but we hope that our efforts here today will benefit others and will bring honor to your name.

All: What a blessing it is to give and receive, to share and support one another and others where love, justice and equality inspire our acts of service and compassion. We dedicate all these gifts to your purposes and your perfect plan. With great joy, we return to your service these tokens of our love for you.

One: May we build honest, caring relationships across all lines of difference. May we grow in spirit and search for meaning, together and apart; may we practice compassion and work for justice.

All: May these gifts, and the work of our hands and hearts, give power to all we stand for as a community of faith. As we live our faith through compassion and action, we give these gifts in hopes of shaping a better world for all. May these offerings, given with generosity and love, help our church and our world become more peaceful, caring, fair and free. Amen!

SENDING FORTH

The people are sent into ministry with the Lord's blessing.

*HYMN OF PROMISE *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* UMH 240

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES FORTH

*BLESSING

*BENEDICTION *Emmanuel, Emmanuel* UMH 204

*POSTLUDE

* = Please stand as you are able.

NT = New Testament, OT = Old Testament

TFWS = The Faith We Sing, UMH = United Methodist Hymnal

A fully staffed and stocked nursery is available for your convenience.

Also, the rocking chairs in the Sanctuary are for rocking your little ones.

Please ask an usher if you need any assistance.

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are given to the glory and praise of Almighty God and the gift of his Son, and in honor of the birth of our grandson, Jackson Reid Barina, by Jim and Kim Schmidlin.



3RD SUNDAY OF *Advent*

December 16, 2018

Divine Street United Methodist Church

Rev. Elizabeth Gaines, Pastor

Mrs. Amy Stovall, Director of Music Ministries

Mrs. Anna Bunn, Organist

Rev. Karen Lucas, Director of Children and Youth

Mrs. Patti Queipo, Preschool Director

Mrs. Susan Smith, Administrative Assistant

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A Place to...Belong...Believe...Become