

PRELUDE

CHORAL INTROIT

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Introduction

Scripture: 1 John 4:9-11

Lighting the Advent Candle of Love

Prayer (Unison)

O God, we thank you that Jesus came into the world to show your love for every person—infants, toddlers; teenagers; young adults, middle-aged people and elderly people, sick people and strong people, rich people and poor people. Come to us this Advent season, dear Lord, and ignite genuine love in our hearts for all human beings. Amen.

Hymn #151 O Little Town of Bethlehem

#PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison):

Almighty God, we stand in awe of your magnificent perfection, which you display each and every day to us. We come here today with our imperfections to praise you and worship you. Lord, we ask that you make your presence known here today. We ask you to strengthen us, restore us and inspire us with your perfect love for us. May our hearts overflow with love, as we proclaim your everlasting greatness. We ask these things in the name of Jesus our Savior, who taught us to pray like this, saying ...

#PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR (Unison)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

#GLORIA PATRI (Unison)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost,
As it was in the beginning,
It is now and ever shall be,

World without end. Amen. Amen.

ANTHEM

SCRIPTURE READINGS Luke 2:1-20 (p. 1590-1591)

SERMON MESSAGE: Seeking Perfection

Hymn #150 Away in a Manger

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

OFFERTORY

Offertory Invitation

Offertory Music

#Doxology (#45-Old Hundredth)

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. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

Lord, we thank you for your love. Thank you for letting us know we can always trust in you dear Lord. You are an abundant God and out of your love for us, you have given us so much. We give you these offerings today and with it, we worship you today and everyday Lord. Please help us to use it to teach others about your never ending love and perfection. Amen.

HYMN #134 Joy to the World

#BENEDICTION (Responsive)

One: May the Lord bless you with his unending love as you leave here today.

Many: We rejoice dear Lord knowing you love us just as we are, even with our imperfections.

One: Lord, bless us and bring us peace today and always.

Many: Let us depart with love in our hearts for our fellow man.

One: Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

BENEDICTION RESPONSE:

POSTLUDE