

St. Timothys United Methodist Church – Cedar Falls, Iowa
December 13, 2009 – 10:15 am
The Third Sunday of Advent

Large print bulletins and hymnals and hearing aid devices are available.
A nursery is provided for children younger than First Grade.
Ask an usher to help you.

Gathering

Prelude "Fantasy on 'O Come, Little Children'" Schultz/arr.Martin

(We invite you to use the prelude as a time for centering on God, the Holy, the Spirit, the Living Jesus. Please be considerate of others for whom this is a quiet time.)

Greeting and Welcome

Lighting the Advent Candles

Responsively

Leader: Companion God, we begin our Advent journey anew.

All: Illuminate for us a shining path to you.

(Light the first, second, and third candles.)

L: Holy One, we light these candles, a flicker of starlight, cradled in a forever circle of green, a sign of belonging, of growth, of possibility, of awe and wonder.

All: May they be a reminder of your divine spark, kindling new beginnings within us. May joy be born among us.

L: We wait in hope and peace and joy with all your people through the ages and into tomorrow. Amen.

***Advent Candle Song** Tune of "Away in a Manger" Red hymnal 217

Light three Advent candles and know from the start

That joy can be bursting right out of your heart.

Light three Advent candles and wait for the morn

When new birth will happen and light will be born.

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Unison Prayer

Show us the way, O God, to reshape our lives to reflect your reign of justice and peace. Open our hearts to rejoice in renewed relationships, and send your Spirit to help us find direction and purpose in all that each day brings. Amen.

Matt & Lucy's Version Births

Praying

Call to Prayer

*"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
"O, come, dear Lord, with mercy and grace,
make strong the weak and heal the human race;
The hungry feed, the needy clothe,
that by example we will learn to love.*

Red hymnal 211

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel."

Words by Cynthia A. Douglas, From Alternatives for Simple Living: 800-821-6153.

Sharing Joys and Concerns

(After each joy or concern, we sing, "*O, come, dear Lord, with mercy and grace.*")

Silent Prayer

Lord's Prayer (sing responsively)

Black hymnal 2278

***Passing the Peace**

Listening to the Word

Congregational Song

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Red hymnal 230

Children's Christmas Program

"Matt & Lucy's Version Births – A Christmas Pageant"

Script by Dot Saunders-Perez; Music and Lyrics by Janet Allen
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By St. Timothy's Sunday School

Responding to the Word

Opportunities and Announcements

Offertory Sentence

Liturgist

"Our desire is to live in ways that reflect a sincere turning towards God and we wonder: What then should we do? Whoever has an abundance must share with anyone who is in need. What then should we do? Live honestly and do not acquire more than we need. What then should we do? Live in peace with one another and love our neighbors as ourselves. May this offering be a symbol of our intention to dedicate all that we are to living in God.

Offertory

"God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" arr.Nancy & Randall Faber

***Dedication Song**

Tune: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

***"Oh, come, dear Lord, with mercy and grace,
make strong the weak and heal the human race,
The hungry feed, the needy clothe
that by example we will learn to love.***

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!"

***Prayer of Dedication**

Unison

***O God, with joy and gladness we offer to you the fruits of our
repentance. Through these gifts, we acknowledge your blessing and give to
those who share in your grace. May no one ever say that you are not a
generous God, and may it never be said that we, your children, fail to display
your generosity. Amen.***

Going Forth

***Closing Song**

"Away in a Manger"

Red hymnal 217

***Blessing**

***Postlude**

"Joy to the World"

Handel/arr.Vandall

* = The Congregation is invited to stand
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