

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

LEBANON, TENNESSEE
Service for the Lord's Day
Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2017

11:00 a.m.



THE GATHERING

To Glorify God and Enjoy God Forever

SILENT MEDITATION

PRELUDE

Voluntary in D Major

Alcock

CHIMING THE HOUR

CHORAL INTROIT

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Mark & Jessica Fain

Leader: ...Let us walk in the light of the Lord.
Let us pray together.

People: (unison) Faithful God, we are glad for your promises to us. We trust that the time is coming when all people will experience comfort, wholeness and liberty. May we do our part to bring your good news of great joy to all. Amen.

Sing: *Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.*

*HYMN NO. 8

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

TRURO

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and loving Lord, instead of rejoicing at your desire to be with us, we choose to live in fear of your vengeance. We anticipate your wrath and disregard your mercy. We confess that we ignore your love and dismiss your continuing reassurance of forgiveness. We choose to play it safe and hide in our comfort zone hoping you will leave us alone.

Forgive us, Lord. May we have the courage to embrace the glory of your always being present in our lives. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: The good news of Advent is that Jesus Christ has come into the world, has led the way through death that we may have life, and is coming again to make all things new.

Friends, this is the Good News. In the name of Christ, we are forgiven!

People: Thanks be to God!

*GLORIA

Hymn No. 23

Gloria in excelsis Deo;

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

*THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Speak to us, Lord.

Speak to us in the waiting, the watching,

the hoping, the longing,

the sorrow, the sighing, the rejoicing.

Speak to us by your Word in these Advent days,

and walk with us until the day of your coming. Amen.

* Those who are able are invited to stand.

SCRIPTURE READING

Mathew 25:14-30

I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

Come, All Ye Faithful

arr. Hal H. Hopson

TIME FOR THE CHILDREN

Children are invited to come forward.

SERMON

Focused on Faith: Be Not Afraid

Rev. Sherard Edington

RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

*HYMN No. 5

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

PICARDY

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the
Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was
crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose
again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand
of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick
and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of
saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life
everlasting. Amen.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY

Savior of the Heathen, Come

J.S. Bach

*DOXOLOGY

*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.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Traditional) Hymnal Page 16

SENDING FORTH

*CAROL SING

HYMN No. 36

In the Bleak Midwinter

CRANHAM

*In the bleak midwinter, Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen snow on snow, Snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, Long ago.*

HYMN No. 25

Away in a Manger

MUELLER

*Away in a manger, no crib for His bed, The little Lord
Jesus laid down His sweet head. The stars in the sky looked
down where He lay, The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.*

HYMN No. 48

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ES IST EIN' ROS'

*Lo, how a rose e'er blooming From tender stem hath sprung,
Of Jesse's lineage coming, By faithful prophets sung,
It came a floweret bright, Amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.
Isaiah 'twas foretold it, The rose I have in mind,
With Mary we behold it, The virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright She bore for us a Savior,
When half spent was the night.*

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Hymn No. 44

*How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, Still the dear Christ enters in.*

POSTLUDE

Shepherds' Noel

Dandrieu

CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP
A Service of Lessons and Carols 7:00 P.M.