Sunday, eleven o'clock 3rd Sunday of Advent December 12, 2010

GREETING

This is the day the Lord has made!
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP AND CONGREGATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

MINUTE FOR MISSION Mission & Outreach Committee

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

SOUNDING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE

***LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH** Josh Parsons

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (Hymn # 9, verse 3)

***Opening Prayer**

Loving God, we open ourselves to you,
trusting that this is how you made us:
you created us for joy-filled hearts and lives.
Show us the creative power of hope.
Teach us the peace that comes from justice.
Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared.
Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,
that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

***HYMN** # 8 *"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"*

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** based on Isaiah 60:1-3

Leader: Arise, shine: for your light has come.
People: O God, we live as if the light
had never defeated the darkness in the world or in us.
Leader: And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
People: We confess that we ignore the Christ
you sent to be among us, to be in us.
Leader: For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.
People: We've kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season
and do not yearn for his birth each moment in our waiting hearts.
Leader: And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.
People: Lord, you came to us in the fullness of time.
Forgive us for not opening our eyes to your coming.
It's time that we prepare for your coming.
Let the earth ring with song. Let the light break forth.
Let us all rejoice in the miracle of love.
Let Christ come into the fullness of our time. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON** based on Jeremiah 33:14-16

Leader: The days are surely coming, says the Lord,
when I will fulfill the promise I made
to the house of Israel and the house of Judah.
In those days and at that time I will cause
a righteous Branch to spring up for David;
and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.
In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety.
And this is the name by which it will be called:
"The Lord is our righteousness."
People of God: Jesus Christ, our Lord,
whose coming we announce in this season, is our righteousness.
In Christ, we are made right with God.
People: Thanks be to God!

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** # 23 (refrain) *"Angels We Have Heard on High"*

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING pg. 663 Isaiah 35:1-10

ANTHEM *"There Shall a Star Come Out of Jacob"* Felix Mendelssohn

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS
**Gateway to Worship

***HYMN OF PREPARATION** # 18 *"The Desert Shall Rejoice"*

GOSPEL READING pg. 11 Matthew 11:2-11

SERMON A Well-Deserved Break Rev. Sharon Amstutz

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER
GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory *"O Come Little Children"* Youth Choir

***Doxology** # 22 (verse 4) *"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"*

***Prayer of Dedication**

GOING OUT TO SERVE

***HYMN OF CONSECRATION** # 40 *"Joy to the World!"*

***BENEDICTION**

Leader: Rejoice in God always, and again I say, rejoice
For God has created you with the capacity for joy.
People: We will find what makes us joyful,
And make that our gift to the world.
Leader: Trust in God's good will for all of creation
and open yourself to God's gentle, transforming love.
People: We will welcome new possibilities in our lives.
We will offer ourselves to God's goodness.
We will go forth in hope, and peace, and joy.

***SENDING RESPONSE** # 29 (refrain) *"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"*

***POSTLUDE**

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*For those who are able, please stand.

****Gateway to Worship** is our worship program for 4-year olds through first graders. The Gateway leader will take the children to their classroom in the Fellowship Hall after the Children's Moments.

LARGE-PRINT BULLETINS —A few large-print bulletins are available on the table in the Narthex.

AFTER CHURCH LUNCH –TODAY AT 12:30 P.M. —Please join us in the Fellowship Hall immediately after worship for After Church Lunch. We will wrap the presents that have been collected for the women of The River after lunch. We look forward to sharing this fellowship opportunity with you! If you have any questions, please contact Andrea Sutter or Lauri Zembower.

GOOD SAMARITAN OFFERING —**Next Sunday, December 19th,** the **Good Samaritan Offering** will be received. This month they need: dish soap, laundry detergent, paper towels, toilet paper, cleanser, deodorant, bath soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and shampoo.

CHRISTMAS EVE MUSIC AND SERVICE —The Christmas Eve pre-service music program will begin at 5:30 p.m. on December 24th. The service will begin at 6:00. If anyone would like to participate in the pre-service music on Christmas Eve, **please contact Jennifer Palmer** (361-3976 or jen7074@aol.com or in person) as soon as possible.

THE MITTEN TREE —The Mitten Tree is in the hallway across from the church office! Please bring hats, scarves and mittens for children in our area who need a little warmth.

ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR —Is it too late?! Not for **Alternative Gift** giving. Each mission could still use and appreciates your help, this year more than ever. If you missed the Alternative Gift Fair and would like to give a gift in a friend or family member's name, there is still time. Missions are: **CASA, Interfaith Hospitality Network, Living Waters for the World, Rise Up for Kids and The River**. You may use the **enclosed Alternative Gift form** to indicate your support. (Cards and envelopes for your use are available in the church office.) These forms may be turned in any time during Advent. Thank you.