



Prepare the way of the Lord —ISAIAH 40:3

DECEMBER 13TH

THE 3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Pastoral Welcome and Announcements

Thoughts for the Day:

- ❖ *By his own will Christ was dependent on Mary during Advent: he was absolutely helpless; he could go nowhere but where she chose to take him; he could not speak; her breathing was his breath; his heart beat in the beating of her heart.... In the season of Advent - waking, working, eating, sleeping, being - each breath is a breathing of Christ into the world. - Caryll Houselander*
- ❖ *To predispose our mind to welcome the Lord who, as we say in the Creed, one day will come to judge the living and the dead, we must learn to recognize him as present in the events of daily life. Therefore, Advent is, so to speak, an intense training that directs us decisively toward him who already came, who will come, and who comes continuously. - Pope John Paul II*

Meditation Music for Advent: If In Your Heart

Call to Worship:

One: Clear away the unnecessary.

All: Put aside the unimportant.

One: Lay down the unrealistic.

All: Keep your ears open for angel songs.

One: Cut the lists in half.

All: Practice saying "no thanks."

One: Look for the moments of stillness.

**All: Keep your eyes looking for a star,
your hands ready to give,
your time open for an unexpected visit,
your gifts ready to share with everyone.**

Song: All Through the Night (music at end of bulletin)

Our Confession:

How long, O God, 'til we see your face? How long 'til refugees can go home in peace? How long 'til drive-bys, accidental shootings and gang violence leave our neighborhoods? How long must people be discriminated against because of the color of their skin, their accent, their age, their sexual orientation, their handicap, their gender, their appearance?

O God, we long for your coming, yet fear the changes you may require. Remind us, God, that sweet baby Jesus grew up and called us to new lives of compassion and justice. Shout in the midst of packages and parties that you come to free us from sin and make us new. Make us ready for Christmas. Walk with us this Advent. Amen.

Song: *A Little Light (music at end of bulletin)*

The Lighting of the Advent Candle - The Candle of New Life

Lesson: **1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Song: *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah, verse 3
(music at end of bulletin)*

Gospel: **Luke 3:1-20**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'

And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.'

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, added to them all by shutting up John in prison.

Message: *"Are You Ready For Christmas?"*

Message Response: *Bring In Your New World (music at end of bulletin)*

The Prayers

The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

The Sending Out:

Leader: The Spirit of God is upon you and is sending you to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted and to proclaim liberty to the captives. In all that you say and do, prepare the way of the Lord! **Amen.**

The Sending Song: *All Earth is Hopeful* (music at end of bulletin)

The Dismissal:

L: Go in peace, serve the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

OUR Welcome IS WIDE OPEN

Skeptic. Cynic. Certain. Believer. Confident. Fearful. Doubter. Seeker. Questioner. Latino. Black. Asian. White. Indigenous. Immigrant. Any combination of ethnic or racial identities. Female. Male. Straight. Gay. Bisexual. Transgender. Questioning. Rich. Poor. Middle-class. Barely making it. Able bodied. Specially abled. Disabled. Young. Old. In-between. Married. Single. Divorced. Awaiting trial. Served time. On probation. Tired. Worn. Hopeful. Employed. Unemployed. Workaholic. Slacker. Anxious. Depressed. Confused. Centered. Inked. Pierced. Both. Life long follower of Jesus. Regular attendee. Occasional attendee. Curious onlooker. Don't quite fit the box. Need a prayer right now. **Trinity is a faith community where we believe in God's love, grace and mercy—illustrated most clearly through Jesus Christ. We believe we are all children of God, created in God's image and equal in God's sight. We believe God loves us just as we are and way too much to let us stay this way. We are called to live in God's light and be transformed, not through judgment but through unconditional love. We believe God's love is all-inclusive and is stronger than the pressure to be perfect regardless of whatever labels we carry. Saint. Sinner. Democrat. Republican. Independent. Libertarian. Green. Socialist. Apolitical. Addicted. Recovering. We don't care what religion or denomination you are. We are all Human. We are all Flawed. We are all Beloved. —You are welcome here.**

COME as you are.

TRINITY CONGREGATION WELCOME STATEMENT | MARCH 2017

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All Through the Night

1. Go, my friends, and hope de - fend you all through the night.
2. Walk the streets and bus - y high - ways all through the night.
3. Wash the feet of friend and strang - er all through the night.

May she peace and cour - age send you all through the night.
Trudge the dark and lone - ly by - ways all through the night.
Shel - ter in the time of dan - ger all through the night.

May she ev - er stand be - side you, in her lov - ing
Touch the sor - row and the sad - ness, dance with those who
In your lives is grace a - bound - ing. Love and light the

kind - ness hide you. Through the treach - 'rous dark - ness guide you
long for glad - ness. Be the com - fort in the mad - ness
night con - found - ing. In your souls the song is sound - ing

all through the night.
all through the night.
all through the night.

A Little Light

From you oh Beth - le - hem, the sun of right - eous -
 There's life for ev - 'ry - one. - to Yah - weh has come
 The Christ comes as a child to com - fort all the

ness shall rise up from the earth to heal our bro - ken -
 near. Our hun - ger will be fed and laugh - ter will ap -
 earth, to chal - lenge those with might to trust a low - ly

ness. A lit - tle light is born to shine through - out the
 near. But all the world's... wealth that comes not as love - an -
 birth. And so we pray this life that comes as love ful -

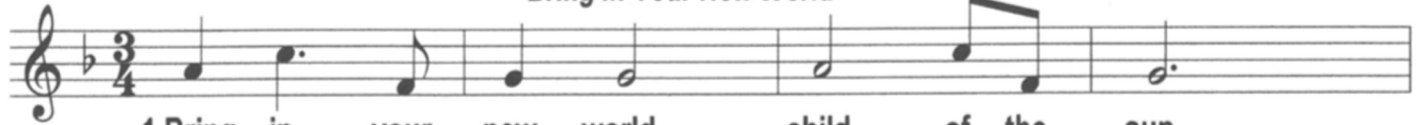
land. Hu - mi - li - ty brings strength, the love that God has planned.
 tee this ev - er - last - ing love, a gift from Gal - i - lee.
 filled would en - ter all our hearts for peace on earth to build.

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah 240

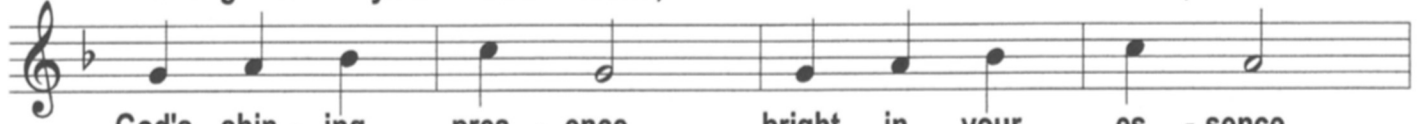
- 1 Light one can - dle to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the light ban - ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the light ban - ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the light ban - ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the light ban - ish dark - ness.

He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
 He shall feed the flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.
 Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.
 He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Bring in Your New World



1. Bring in your new world, child of the sun,
2. Bring in your new world, child of the east,
3. Bring in your new world, child of all time,
4. Bring in your new world, child of our earth,



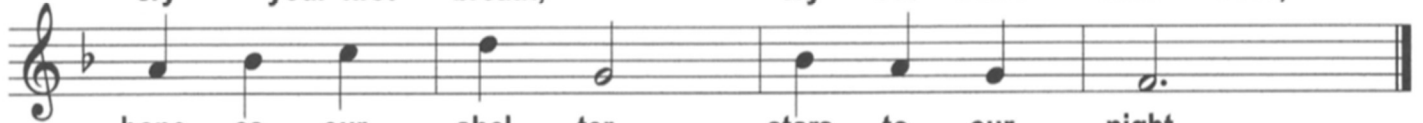
God's shin - ing pres - ence, bright in your es - sence,
dan - ger - ous lead - er, born to be plead - er,
peace with - out bor - der, peace the new or - der,
hold - ing cre - a - tion in your com - pas - sion,



Christ - mas be - gun; bring to our sad world
proph - et and priest; come with your judg - ment,
li - on with lamb; come in the heal - ing,
wait - ing your birth; come lit - tle hu - man,



light and de - light, sing - ing and laugh - ter,
voice for the poor, born to col - li - sion,
shar - ing of bread, jus - tice and free - dom,
cry your first breath, cry out God's kind - ness,



hope as our shel - ter, stars to our night.
God's right - eous vi - sion here at our door.
signs of the king - dom, ev - 'ry - one fed.
light out of blind - ness, life out of death.

All Earth is Hopeful ELW 266



1. All earth is hope-ful, the Sav-ior comes at last!
2. Peo-ple of Is-rael, you heard the proph-et tell:
3. Mount-tains and val-leys will have to be pre-pared;
4. We first saw Je-sus a ba-by in a crib.



Fur-rows lie o-pen, for God's cre-a-tive task; this, the
"A vir-gin moth-er will bear Em-man-u-el"; she con-
new high-ways o-pened, new pro-to-cols de-clared. Al-most
This same Lord Je-sus to-day has come to live in our



la-bor of peo-ple who strug-gle to see how
ceived him, "God with us," our broth-er, whose birth re-
here! God is near-ing, in beau-ty and grace! All
world; he is pre-sent, in neigh-bors we see our



God's truth and jus-tice set ev-'ry-bod-y free.
stores hope and cour-age to chil-dren of this earth
clear ev-'ry gate-way, in haste, come out in haste!
Je-sus is with us, and

ev-er sets us free.