

**Worship Guide**  
**Sunday, December 13, 2020**  
**10:00 AM**

**THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**SCRIPTURE REFLECTION**

Luke 1:68-75

*Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,  
because he has come to his people and redeemed them.  
He has raised up a horn of salvation for us  
in the house of his servant David  
(as he said through his holy prophets of long ago),  
salvation from our enemies  
and from the hand of all who hate us—  
to show mercy to our ancestors  
and to remember his holy covenant,  
the oath he swore to our father Abraham:  
to rescue us from the hand of our enemies,  
and to enable us to serve him without fear  
in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.*

**DAWNING LIGHT OF OUR SALVATION**

Words: Wendell Kimbrough (c) 2012 Wendell Kimbrough

Music: Bruce Benedict, (c) 2012 Cardiphonia. CCLI #101544

Long in darkness Israel wandered;  
Long in mortal shadows, we  
Walked in bondage and self-pity,  
Trod in paths of sin and grief.  
In the prophets' words He told us,  
Long the God of Israel spoke;  
He alone in strength would save us  
From the hands of all our foes.

*Every valley be exalted!  
Every mountain be made plain!  
Crooked ways repent and straighten;  
All creation bend in praise!*

He shall raise a mighty Savior;  
Born of David's lineage, He  
Comes in cov'nant love to claim us  
From our sins to set us free.  
Light to those who dwell in darkness  
Life to those from death who flee  
Joy unto the earth, and gladness,  
To your pathways dawning peace!

Jesus, Lord, and mighty Savior,  
David's Son and yet his King,  
Dawning light of our salvation,  
Of your saving pow'r we sing!  
Stand, Oh lame, and dance ye broken,  
Know the Savior's healing grace;  
Come, Oh deaf and hear him singing;  
Turn, Oh blind, behold his face!

## **ADVENT LITANY**

In this Advent season of waiting on the Lord,  
we trust in the Lord's goodness.

**We rely on his mercy.**

**We find shelter in his steadfast love.**

In this Advent season of waiting on the Lord,  
we walk in the Lord's way.

**We follow his example of love.**

**We keep our covenant promises.**

In this Advent season of waiting,  
Lord, forget our sins.

**Remember your love.**

**Remember each one of us.**

**Remember your people everywhere.**

In this Advent season of waiting,  
Lord, we wait for your salvation.

**We wait for your leading.**

**We wait for your coming.**

—based on Psalm 25:1-10

**Sing: We are waiting, we are waiting;  
We are waiting for You.  
We are waiting, we are waiting;  
We are waiting, Lord, for You.**

## **ADVENT WREATH**

One: Advent means coming. We light this candle  
as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

**ALL: We are preparing for the full coming of God's  
kingdom. Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

Scripture: Isaiah 61:1-3a | Luke 1:46-55

Almighty God, stir up your power,  
and with great might come among us.  
And because we are greatly hindered by our sins,  
let your abundant grace and mercy come quickly to help and  
deliver us, through Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
who lives in power with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. Amen.

## **CONFESSION**

“Prepare the way of the Lord.” (*Is. 40:3*)

Let us confess our sins to God:

God of salvation, in Christ you have done great things. By your  
power you lifted us out of the wasteland of sin and brought into  
your kingdom.

Salvation is your gift to us.

But we confess that often we try to replace your gift with our  
own efforts.

We try to complete what is already perfect;  
we try to add to what is already full;  
we try to earn what we already have.

Forgive us for our foolishness.

Help us to focus on your grace.

Help us to live grateful lives in return.

For Jesus' sake alone, Amen.

—based on Psalm 126

# **FORGIVENESS**

## **GRACE**

Niki Shepherd, Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson, 2016. CityAlight.  
CCLI #101544

Your grace that leads this sinner home  
From death to life forever,  
And sings the song of righteousness  
By blood and not by merit.

Your grace that reaches far and wide,  
To every tribe and nation,  
Has called my heart to enter in  
The joy of Your salvation.

*By grace I am redeemed,  
By grace I am restored,  
And now I freely walk into  
The arms of Christ, my Lord.*

Your grace that I cannot explain,  
Not by my earthly wisdom;  
The prince of life, without a stain,  
Was traded for this sinner.

Let praise rise up and overflow,  
My song resound forever;  
For grace will see me welcomed home  
To walk beside my Savior.

# **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

## **COME LIGHT OUR HEARTS**

Sandra McCracken, 2014 Drink Your Tea (ASCAP), Admin by Music Services. CCLI #101544

*For You, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.  
For You, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.  
Truly our hope is in You,  
Truly our hope is in You.*

O Lord of life, our only hope,  
Your radiance shines  
On all who look to You in the dark.  
Emmanuel come, come light our hearts.

Oh Joy above, all other loves,  
In You we find more than enough.  
We come as we are, O heal and restore,  
Come light our hearts.

## **SERMON**

## **RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

### **GRACE**

Niki Shepherd, Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson, 2016.  
CityAlight. CCLI #101544

Let praise rise up and overflow,  
My song resound forever;  
For grace will see me welcomed home  
To walk beside my Savior.

*By grace I am redeemed,  
By grace I am restored,  
And now I freely walk into  
The arms of Christ, my Lord.*

## **“THE CHRISTMAS ALPHABET”**

Readers: Katerina Toland  
Avery Peterson  
Kyla Piper  
Talia Akindejoye

## COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS

Words by Charles Wesley except additional refrain. Public Domain.

Tune: Traditional French Melody, 1761.

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,  
Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us,  
Let us find our rest in Thee.

*Christ our God has come to dwell,  
"God with us," Emmanuel.*

Born Thy people to deliver,  
Born a child and yet a King.  
Born to reign in us forever,  
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.

*Christ our God has come to dwell,  
"God with us," Emmanuel.*

By Thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all sufficient merit  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.  
*Christ our God has come to dwell,  
"God with us," Emmanuel.*

## Advent Doxology

Praise the Lord, the coming King.  
All his saints, his glory sing.  
Praise God all you heav'nly host,  
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Glo-ria in excelsis Deo.

Glo-ria in excelsis Deo.

*(Translation: "Glory to God in the highest")*