

Third Sunday of Advent

December 11th, 2011

11:00 a.m. Worship

GATHERING

Greeting

Susan Schall

Prelude

*Processional Hymn #249 "There's a Song in the Air"

Advent Candle Lighting The Steve Burke Family

Leader: The church is waiting for the promised deliverance that comes with Jesus' arrival.

People: **We yearn for redemption and pray for deliverance, yet we learn to live in Advent.**

Leader: God's story has become our story of faithful expectation and lives devoted to discipleship.

People: **We light this third candle of Advent in the hope that God will give us strength for the trials and Joy in our worship.**

Refrain: **I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory, to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.**

Invocation

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PROCLAMATION

Scripture Lesson John 1:6-8, 19-28 Pew Bible, Page 86

Leader: "The Word of God for the People of God."

People: "Thanks be to God."

Response to the Word "I Wonder As I Wander"

Reception of New Members

Congregational Welcome

We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together

with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and our service, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

Parish Concerns and Prayer

Congregational Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, in your first Advent you showed us your glory, you demonstrated your love, and you walked among us as God incarnate, God with us. In these present days we live on the basis of what we know of you in your first advent. We know enough of you to have hope that you will continue to perform your signs and wonders, and that you will ultimately fulfill your gracious promises to us. Come, Lord Jesus, reign among us that we may in all times and all circumstances of our lives give you thanks and praise. Amen.

Anthem "Spirit of Mercy, Truth and Love"

*Hymn of Preparation #218 "It Came upon the Midnight Clear"

Sermon Text 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Sermon "God's Story Was, Is and Will Be" Rev. Heaton

RESPONSE

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer #895

Choral Amen

Offering & Witness

Offertory

*Doxology #94

*Closing Hymn #217 "Away in a Manger"

*Benediction

*Postlude

*For Those Who Can, Please Stand