



# ORDER FOR WORSHIP

*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent*

*December 13, 2020*

*"Rejoice always," begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. "All God's children got a robe," go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God's party.*

## GATHERING

*The Holy  
Spirit calls us  
together as  
the people of  
God.*

### PRELUDE

*"Prepare the Royal Highway"*

**ELW 264**

### WELCOME

### PRAYER

### LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

Gracious God, we honour your name. Be with us on our journey to the manger. Help us feed those who are hungry for food and thirsty for water. Help us be the bread unto which they turn. The bread that when broken will feed many. We light the third candle today preparing our hearts for the love of your Son. Amen.

### HYMN

ELW 715 (verses 1, 2 and 3)



## Christ, Be Our Light



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for  
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for  
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.

*Refrain*



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

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### BUILDING OF THE CRECHE

Each week in Advent we will add to the Creche as we prepare for the arrival of Jesus. The story, "Who is Coming to our House?" by Joseph Slate, will be read as we prepare for the arrival in the stable and in our hearts of someone special.

God speaks to  
us in  
scripture  
reading,  
preaching,  
and song

## WORD

### GOSPEL

#### John 1: 6 – 8, 19 - 28

*John's gospel describes Jesus as the "light of the world." John the Baptist is presented as a witness to Jesus, one who directs attention away from himself to Christ, the true light.*

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

<sup>19</sup>This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" <sup>20</sup>He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." <sup>22</sup>Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" <sup>23</sup>He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,  
'Make straight the way of the Lord,'"  
as the prophet Isaiah said.

<sup>24</sup>Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup>They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" <sup>26</sup>John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, <sup>27</sup>the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." <sup>28</sup>This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.



### CHOIR ANTHEM

*"Comfort, Comfort Now My People"*

ELW 256

### SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY

*"Lost in the Night"*

ELW 243

## Lost in the Night



1 Lost in the night do the peo - ple yet lan - guish,  
2 Must we be vain - ly a - wait - ing the mor - row?  
3 Sor - row - ing wan - d'ers, in dark - ness yet dwell - ing,  
4 Light o'er the land of the need - y is beam - ing;



long - ing for morn - ing the dark - ness to van - quish,  
Shall those who have light no light let us bor - row,  
dawned has the day of a ra - diance ex - cel - ling,  
riv - ers of life through its des - erts are stream - ing,



plain - tive - ly sigh - ing with hearts full of an - guish.  
giv - ing no heed to our bur - den of sor - row?  
death's deep - est shad - ows for - ev - er dis - pel - ling.  
bring - ing all peo - ples a Sav - ior re - deem - ing.



Will not day come soon?	Will not day come soon?
Will you help us soon?	Will you help us soon?
Christ is com - ing soon!	Christ is com - ing soon!
Come and save us soon!	Come and save us soon!

Text: Nordic hymn; tr. Olav Lee, 1859–1943, alt.  
Music: LOST IN THE NIGHT, Finnish folk tune  
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## THANKSGIVING

*In everything*

*Give*

*Thanks.*

*1 Thessalonians*

*5:18*

### PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

On this third Sunday of Advent, we join in prayer as we await God's salvation, responding to each petition with the words "Immanuel, come and save us."

*A brief silence.*

God of all people, strengthen our witness to your love. Protect all who are persecuted for their faith.

While churches await a full return to in-person gatherings, empower us with your Spirit.



We pray for the church:  
**Immanuel, come and save us.**

God of creation, grant relief to endangered animals and plants. Protect the rain forests. Provide for those who rely on nature's rhythms for their livelihood. Train us to live on this earth in such a way that all people may thrive.

We pray for the earth:  
**Immanuel, come and save us.**

God of all lands, plant in the leaders of every nation a love of justice and a commitment to serve the common good. Calm tensions and bring peace where conflicts rage. Equip countries to rebuild cities that have been destroyed by war.

We pray for the nations:  
**Immanuel, come and save us.**

God of exiles, give a homeland to refugees. Provide housing for those whose homes have been destroyed. Protect street people from the cold and be with teenage runaways. Uphold the work of CLWR, and all disaster relief organizations. Comfort all who feel isolated from others.

We pray for all in distress:  
**Immanuel, come and save us.**

God of the sorrowing and the broken-hearted, give health to the sick, relief to medical workers, and comfort to mourners. Attend to those with lifelong illness. We beg for an end to the coronavirus and a fair distribution of the vaccines. Receive our prayers for those we now name. . .

*A brief silence.*

God beyond all things,  
receive these prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ, who came, who comes,  
and who is coming now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**SHARING of the PEACE**

**CHILDREN'S STORY**

**OFFERING**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

# SENDING

*God blesses  
us and sends  
us in mission  
to the world.*

**BLESSING**

**DISMISSAL**

**POSTLUDE**

*"People Look East"*

ELW 248





## ST. PHILIP'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

### SERVING TODAY

Rev. Tuula Van Gaasbeek	Minister
Chris Ritcey-Conrad	Music Director
Dave Pascoe	Videographer
Gary Wuschnakowski	Story Reader
Tania Weststeyn	Gospel Reader
Stacey MacIntyre	Hymn of the Day
Doug Kearns	Children's Story
Jeremy Walker	Prayers of the People
	The Lord's Prayer

#### In our Prayers

The Savage and Binhammer families, Rodney Erlandson, Melody Hogeveen, Mary Hughes, Al Jacksteit, Mark Kieswetter, Fran Moore, Marion Morningstar, Pat Penney, Julie Potocny, Lesley Powell, Sydney Ross, Helen Scollnik, and Elga Smidt.

#### Ways to be involved

While we can't be in the building, there are still ways to stay involved and in community with others. Here are a few:

- Tuesday Bible Study via Zoom @ 7:00 pm
- Participate in the Virtual Worship: play an instrument or sing, read the Gospel, provide a Children's Message, lead the prayers, or tell a Faith Story. Please contact the office.
- Join in the Virtual Coffee Hour @ 11:00 am on Sunday mornings.

#### Pass the Offering Plate Please

Thanks for giving your offering regularly. Even while our doors are closed, our hearts and hands are open and busy. Our ministries need your support. Details for how to give are on [stphilipstoronto.com/donate-now/](http://stphilipstoronto.com/donate-now/).

#### December Services

- **Sunday, December 20:** Pageant and Music Sunday (virtual)
- **Monday, December 21 @ 7:30pm:** Candlelit service, "Light in the Darkness". Join our live stream service on the longest night of the year.
- **Christmas Eve @ 5pm:** Candlelit Service of Carols will be live streamed. The recorded service will then be made available to worship any time.
- **Christmas Day:** a special Christmas Day message will be made available online