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December 11, 2016

Third Sunday of Advent

(Portions of the service that are in **BOLD** are to be said by all.

All points marked * those who are able are invited to stand.)

Approach

Carols – VU #38 – “Angels We Have Heard on High”
VU #36 – “Angels From the Realms of Glory”

Follow the Star – Follow - Lighting of Advent Wreath

**Give us love in the world, we are hurting,
Give us love for ourselves, we pray,
Give us love flowing out to all others,
Give us love in our lives today.**

**Light a candle, light a candle,
Light a candle while we wait and pray.
Light a candle, light a candle,
Light a candle of God’s love.**

Call to Worship

One: We, the unsuspecting and unlikely, are drawn here together by a promise, asked to follow so that we might find Love incarnate.

All: He is coming.

One: The angel’s promise interrupted a man’s private doubts and insecurity.

All: He is coming.

One: An unwed pregnant teenager’s fears diminished with the angel’s promise.

All: He is coming.

One: A baby in a womb leapt for joy at the sound of her voice and promised.

All: He Came. He Is Come. He Is Coming. Let us worship God.

* Hymn VU #68 – “All Poor Ones”

Prayer of Approach and Confession

Called to be God’s people, we gather in joy-filled celebration of our Creating God. We celebrate the Godly miracles of creation we experience every day and night. Called to be a people of faith, we gather to praise our Eternal and Loving God. Faithful God, we gather to give our thanks that your promises are

totally reliable. Called to be a people of hope and trust, we gather to give thanks for God’s care and compassion towards people who are vulnerable to life’s fears and stresses. Patient Lord, forgive our lack of faith in your loving power. We look around us and all that we see is what we don’t have. We follow those who tell us that we need more, newer, and bigger. We fail to notice the daily blessings you lavish upon us. Clear our blindness to the needs of others. Strengthen us and move us from lame excuses for not serving you. Help us to truly listen to one another, not with our pat answers ready, but with loving and generous hearts. Heal us and make us ready to truly be your disciples. In Jesus’ Name, we pray.

AMEN

Words of Assurance

* Hymn VU #70 – “There’s a Star in the East”

Bible Adventures Song – “Follow the Star” / Children’s Time / The Lord’s Prayer

The Word

📖 Scripture Reading – James 5: 7-10
Luke 1: 46b-55

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

Meditation – “Will we truly follow?”

(a quiet time for your personal reflection and prayer)

Anthem – “Come Follow That Star”

The Response

Announcements

* Offering / Response (VU 94 v. 1 tune VU 624)

**Lovely star in the sky, banishing the night,
Shine down and hallow us, light our dark path.
Star shining in the east, be our true guide;
Lead us to worship him, worship the Child.**

Prayers of the People

* Hymn VU #62 – “Once in Royal David’s City”

* Benediction / Response (VU #96 v. 3)

**Will you tell about the light in the prison cell?
Though it’s shackled out of sight, it is shining well.
When a truth is cut and bruised, and the innocent abused;
Will you hide or decide to meet the light?**