



## Shine God's Light

As disciples of Christ, we share and rejoice  
in the warmth of God's love and light by  
**teaching** the holy word,  
**servng** Christ's community, and  
**growing** together in faith.



December 17, 2023  
Third Sunday of Advent

# The Service for the Lord's Day

## Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023

9:30 am

Prelude

*In dulci jubilo*  
*Of the Father's Love Begotten*  
*Prelude on "Greensleeves"*

Friedrich Wilhelm Zachau  
Wilbur Held  
Ralph Vaughan Williams

Call to Worship

One: Our God can part the sea.

**All: God can bring water from a rock and provide bread in the desert.**

One: Our God can walk on water.

**All: He can heal the sick and turn water into wine.**

One: Our God sets the stars in the sky.

**All: God hears our voice when we cry and is closer than our own breath.**

One: There is nothing our God cannot do.

**All: Let us stand in awe. Let us worship God with wonder.**

Lighting the Third Advent Candle of Joy

Hopkins Family

\*Hymn

*Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending*

No. 348

Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, somewhere in our childhood we face pressure to outgrow awe. We turn into adults who obsess over data and facts. We praise those who have answers and assume that wonder is an answerless game. Forgive us for closing that door to you. Remind us that the kingdom of God belongs to children. Teach us the ways of awe and wonder, so that like Zechariah, when we find ourselves speechless, our first words will be words of praise. With hearts open wide, we pray, amen.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

One: So, hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

**All: We are forgiven. We are loved. We belong to God. Amen.**

\*Gloria

**Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

No. 113

Welcome and Announcements

Anthem

*A Carol Jubilee*  
Joyful Ringers

Sharon Rogers

Children's Message

Jennifer Miller

*Children's offering will be collected as they come forward for the message.  
After the message, children and youth may depart for Sunday School or return to their pew.*

Prayer for Illumination

Kay Hoge

Old Testament Reading            Psalm 126 (page 499)

Anthem                                *Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates*                                Hal H. Hopson

Lift up your heads, O mighty gates; behold the King of glory waits: the King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here. O blest the land, the city blest, where Christ the ruler is confessed; O happy hearts and happy homes to whom this King of triumph comes! Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple set apart from earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy. Come, Savior, come with us abide; our hearts to you we open wide; your Holy Spirit guides us on, until our glorious goal is won.

Janet Lubaszka, handbells

Gospel Reading                      Luke 1:57–66 (page 832)

Sermon                                *What Wonder Turns Into*                                Rev. Amy Lincoln

\*Affirmation of Faith

One: We believe in a God who knows our names,

**All: who counts the hairs on our heads and carries the dreams in our hearts.**

One: We believe that God's fingerprints are all over creation

**All: and that God is forever speaking to us in a million different ways.**

One: We believe that awe and wonder,

**All: goose bumps and laughter, telling stories and paying attention,**

One: are all ways that we can say thank you to our creating, sustaining and loving God.

**All: Therefore we commit ourselves to moving through this world with eyes wide open, with porous hearts and grateful spirits.**

One: We commit ourselves to living lives of awe, wonder and gratitude,

**All: trusting that these things will forever draw us deeper into God's loving arms.**

One: We believe.

**All: We stand in awe. Thanks be to God !**

Offering

*We invite you to consider giving out of gratitude to God after worship today either by placing your offering in the wooden box hanging on the wall at each exit, scanning the QR code in your pew and/or giving online through the church website at [www.flemingtonpres.org](http://www.flemingtonpres.org), or mailing a check to the church office at 10 East Main Street, Flemington, NJ 08822. We give thanks for your generosity, allowing our mission and ministry together to continue.*

Prayer of Dedication

\*Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;**

**Praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (in unison)

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen**

\*Hymn                                *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

No. 96

\*Charge and Benediction

Response

*Born To Set Us Free*

Jay Althouse

Come, O come, Emmanuel; ransom captive Israel. God's own son for all to see, born to set us free.

Postlude

*Hark, the Glad Sound!*

Edward Broughton

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