

# St. Paul's

United Church of Christ  
Evansville, Indiana

## Third Sunday of Advent December 13, 2020

**WELCOME**

Rev. Mary Hurley

**PRELUDE**

*In the Bleak Midwinter* (Holsy)

Rick Hobbs

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (responsively)

Pastor Mary: God is in our midst; do not fear. God rejoices to renew our lives in steadfast love.

**Congregation: God gathers us for this time of worship. God claims us and promises us a home.**

Pastor Mary: Trust in God who is our strength and life. Give thanks to God, the source of our salvation.

**Congregation: We will sing praises and exalt God's name. With joyous shouts, we will tell of God's glorious deeds.**

Pastor Mary: Rejoice in God, whatever your circumstances. Remember the the good fortune God has shared with you.

**Congregation: We will not worry as we seek God's peace. We open our hearts and minds to God's leading.**

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## **INVOCATION** (in unison)

**Loving God, we rejoice in this season of anticipation as we remember your promises and look forward to ways that you reveal yourself to us. May your presence be real to us in this hour. Strengthen us for victories over temptation, for renewal of our love for you and one another, for leadership and service in your church. We give thanks that you have called us into community and commissioned us to make a difference in the world. Equip us here for the tasks you set before us. Amen**

## **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

*with Light the Candle (Graham)*

**SPECIAL MUSIC** *Come Emmanuel (Paris)*

Katie Maurer

## **MORNING PRAYER**

concluding with **The Lord's Prayer**

**OFFERTORY** *Come Now Our King (August and Barnes)*

Katie Maurer

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## **OFFERING PRAYER** (in unison)

**In our unworthiness, O God, may we yet bring worthy gifts to honor the Messiah. May the brokenhearted be led to enriching new celebrations. May the lowly among us come to know their true worth as persons chosen by you to do great things. By your mercy, may the hungry be fed not only with bread but also with opportunities to feed others. We give ourselves as your servants, for no gift is complete without personal commitment. Thank you, God, for expecting great things of us. Our spirits rejoice in the coming of our Savior. Amen**

## **SCRIPTURE LESSONS**

Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11  
I Thessalonians 5: 16-24

## **SERMON**

"Have We Got That Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy  
Down In Our Hearts Today?"

Rev. Mary Hurley

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

## **BENEDICTION**

## **POSTLUDE**

*Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers* (Swedish Folk Tune) Rick Hobbs