

3rd Sunday of Advent

HYMN: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (verse 5)
Two purple candles and one pink candle are lit during the singing.

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

All: **Who made heaven and earth.**

OPENING PRAYER: O God,
As we faithfully await the birth of your son, Jesus,
Let us be glad and rejoice.
In our families and our schools and in our lives,
Help us to share the joy of Christ's love with others.
Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Philippians 4:4-7

A reading from the letter to the Philippians:

Brothers and sisters:

Rejoice in the Lord always.

I shall say it again: rejoice!

Your kindness should be known to all.

The Lord is near.

Have no anxiety at all, but in everything,
by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,
make your requests known to God.

Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding
will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

INTERCESSIONS:

Christ came to bless us with goodness and to make our hearts glad. Let us pray that we may be always ready to rejoice in him. Our response is “Come, Lord Jesus.”

That the Advent season may open our hearts to God's joy and peace, we pray to the Lord.

All: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

That the light of Christ may bring good news to people who are sad or suffering, we pray to the Lord.

All: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

That those who have died may be with Jesus forever, we pray to the Lord.

All: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

That this wreath may constantly remind us to prepare for the coming of Christ, we pray to the Lord.

All: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

(Other petitions may be offered here.)

With rejoicing, let us offer our prayer to the Father:

All: **Our Father . . .**

Leader: May the light of Christ lead us to the joy of his kingdom, now and forever.

All: **Amen.**

HYMN: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (verse 6)