

Dec. 16, 2018

3rd Sunday of Advent

10:00 a.m.

Bring Your Grandchild to Worship Sunday

We Gather in God's Name

As We Prepare for Worship

Christmas is for giving
And for showing that we care,
For honoring the Christ Child
With the loving gifts we share.

– excerpt from “Christmas Giving” by Iris W. Bray

Prelude “Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying” Nicolai, arr. Unke

Choral Introit “Celtic Advent Carol” Angerman & Barrett

***Gathering Words** *Luke 18:15-17 (NRSV)*

People were bringing even infants to Jesus that he might touch them; and when the disciples saw it, they sternly ordered them not to do it. But Jesus called for them and said:

“Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.”

Young and old, we are the beloved children of God.

Together, we come to worship the Lord.

***Gathering Song #188** “Jesus Loves Me!”

Call to Prayer

God's invitation to prayer is an invitation to spend time together. Our prayers recognize our love for God, and, as we confess our sins, God's love for us in forgiveness. Let us spend time with God.

Our Prayer of Failing and Unfailing Love

—*from Leviticus 19:9-18*

Faithful God, you have called us as your own. You have invited us to be your hands and feet in this world, despite our imperfect attempts to do so.

You call us to feed the hungry, but too often we gather for ourselves every bit of the harvest you provide. We scour our lives, grasping for every crumb of food and drop of refreshment; we hoard each penny, as if your mercies aren't new every day.

Forgive us Lord, when we forget the poor and homeless among us.

Spirit of Truth, we rebel against You. We steal and lie to one another. We swear by your name while planning our deceit. We insult those who cannot hurt us back.

Forgive us Lord, when we choose blindness rather than truth, causing one another to stumble.

Jesus, Savior of all, you love so freely and without prejudice. Why can't we follow your example? Instead, we favor those who can help us. We stay silent when we should speak. We remain still when we should act. We remain stubborn when we should forgive.

Forgive us Lord, when our love fails.

Holy God, give us a heart to choose your unfailing love rather than our sin.

Breathe grace into us and over us, so that we may be bearers of your light in the world.

silent confession

Amen.

Words of Light *John 3:1 (NIV)*

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!

And that is what we are!

Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known.

Today we light a candle recognizing God’s unfailing love. It is the hope of our salvation.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Our Response #113 “Angels We Have Heard on High” (*refrain*)

The Peace

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Choral Anthem “I Hear the Prophet Callin’” Choplin

God’s Word Comes Alive

Prayer for Illumination *Psalm 78:1-4 (NiRV)*

My people, listen to my teaching. Pay attention to what I say. I will open my mouth and tell a story. I will speak about things that were hidden.

They happened a long time ago. We have heard about them and we know them. Our people who lived before us have told us about them.

We won't hide them from our children. We will tell them to those who live after us. We will tell them what the Lord has done that is worthy of praise.

We will talk about God's power and the wonderful things the Lord has done.

Holy Spirit, teach us now.

Amen.

A Reading from the Epistles Philippians 2:6-8 (NiRV)

⁶In his very nature he was God.

Jesus was equal with God. But Jesus didn't take advantage of that fact.

⁷Instead, he made himself nothing.

He did this by taking on the nature of a servant.

He was made just like human beings.

⁸He appeared as a man.

He was humble and obeyed God completely.

He did this even though it led to his death.

Even worse, he died on a cross!

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

A Reading from the Gospels Mark 6:45-51 (NiRV)

⁴⁵Right away Jesus made his disciples get into the boat. He had them go on ahead of him to Bethsaida. Then he sent the crowd away. ⁴⁶After leaving them, he went up on a mountainside to pray.

⁴⁷Later that night, the boat was in the middle of the Sea of Galilee. Jesus was alone on land. ⁴⁸He saw the disciples pulling hard on the oars. The wind was blowing against them. Shortly before dawn, he went out to them. He walked on the lake. When he was about to pass by them, ⁴⁹they saw him walking on the lake. They thought he was a ghost, so they cried out. ⁵⁰They all saw him and were terrified.

Right away Jesus said to them, “Be brave! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”⁵¹ Then he climbed into the boat with them. The wind died down. And they were completely amazed.

Message “Love Gets in the Boat” Rev. Michelle Henrichs

Our Shared Life

Welcome, members, guests and residents of Tudor Oaks! We hope that you will join us again soon. Please sign the red fellowship folder as it is passed and read the announcements in the bulletin.

If you have an announcement, please alert the liturgist, who will bring the microphone to you.

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Lord’s Prayer

(Please use whichever words are most familiar to you.)

God’s Gifts Are Recognized with Thanks

Call to Offering

Let us share the love lavished on us with others through our offering.

Offertory “Lullaby for the Christ Child” Pethel

***Doxology #117**

“While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night” *verse 6*

***Prayer of Dedication** (*unison*)

Assured of the love of Jesus, we freely offer our tithes and offerings to God. May they share the love of Jesus with others. Amen.

***Sending Song #115** “Away in a Manger”

***Benediction**

Postlude “Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella” French carol



You may wish to be seated for the postlude and then stay for coffee and fellowship.

Today & This Week at Heritage
3rd Sunday of Advent

| | | |
|------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| 9:00 a.m. | Choir rehearsal | |
| 10:00 a.m. | Worship: | Rev. Michelle Henrichs |
| | Liturgist: | Brandy Bohman |
| | Ushers/Greeters: | Jane Arloszynski |
| | | Guy & Louise Osborn |
| | Set-up / Take-down: | Ron Kohler & helpers |
| 11:00 a.m. | Fellowship time | |
| | Refreshments: | Jan Tesch |

Thursday

1:00 p.m. Presbytery Prayer Group, Presbytery Office

Sunday, Dec. 23
4th Sunday of Advent

| | | |
|------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| 9:15 a.m. | Choir rehearsal | |
| 10:00 a.m. | Worship: | Rev. Michelle Henrichs |
| | Liturgist: | Judi Fellows |
| | Ushers/Greeters: | still needed |
| | Set-up / Take-down: | Ron Kohler & helpers |

11:00 a.m. Fellowship time:

Refreshments:

Judi Fellows

A Visit with the Pastor

Pastor Michelle is in the office on Tuesday afternoons (except the 3rd Tuesday) from 2:00 - 4:30. If you would like a visit with Pastor Michelle at another time, please contact her at 262-488-5100 or mahenrichs@gmail.com. You may also leave a message with the church office at 414-425-2050.

Prayer Concerns and Celebrations

Each week, we remember two families in prayer. We thank God for them, ask God's blessing upon them and God's presence with them. Please keep these highlighted families and the other listed people and places in your personal prayers throughout the week.

Highlighted Families:

Lauren & Chris Giuliani

Nora

Andy & Sara Pforr

Addy Sadowski and Jonah

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle:

Presbytery of East Iowa

The people of Australia

Praying for the Persecuted Church: Jordan

Birthday:

Dec. 20 John Soderland

Anniversary:

Dec. 19 Andy & Sara Pforr

In Our Prayers

This week's prayer list:

Ron Kohler was in the ER with very high blood pressure.

Ginni has been suffering with migraine headaches. She also has an infection from oral surgery that is not responding to antibiotics.

Sarah Ahrens is finalizing her divorce. Janet asks for prayers of support for all of them during this difficult time.

Jan Tesch's brother Richard is home from the hospital and his kidneys are doing better.

Both Jeanne and Ken Musolf had surgery last week. Ken's surgery went well. Jeanne's surgery also went well, but she has been overdoing and is having some issues with wound closure.

Steve Seeker's friend Chuck passed away last week.

Prayers requested for college students going into exam week.

Joy that Sam and Aly Robinson are graduating from UWM on Sunday.

Joy that Michael Breitbach had a good trip to visit Caroline, Annabelle and new baby Cecelia. Prayers requested for a good transition for Caroline and Zack as they relocate to Seattle. Traveling mercies for Thomas flying to Arizona to see them next week.

Joy for the Lawrences. Ben, Marcy and children have left Turkey and arrived in California last Sunday morning.

Our on-going prayer list:

Karen Anderson, Roxanne Lawrence, Jean Ripple, Steve Seeker, Jane Arloszynski's brother Earl Duckwall.

Announcements

In case a Tudor Oaks resident needs assistance, please notify the Nursing Station in the Health Center or the Front Desk or call 1-414-529-0100.

The Wired Word Update

The Wired Word will not meet during December. Starting January 6, we will be changing our meeting time and place to 11:15 in the Olive Wood Theater.

Pastor's Bible Study Update

The Bible Study group meets at 1:00 p.m. every Tuesday of the month except the third Tuesday. The group will not meet on Dec. 25, or Jan. 1, but will resume on Jan. 8. For more information, please contact Pastor Michelle at mahenrichs@gmail.com.

Christmas Eve Service

Come celebrate the birth of Jesus with us on Monday, Dec. 24 at 5:30 p.m. in the Olive Wood Theater. Worship will include candlelight, carols, beautiful choral music and the festive sounds of brass.

Follow-up on Richard

Here's a follow-up on Richard from our Shelter Service presentations.

Richard is in his new home and is the first from the Ezekiel Project HOPE (Home-Ownership-Partnership-Employment) to work on and then move into the same home. As a first-time homeowner, Richard was in need of furniture, cleaning products and appliances... well, as of Saturday Dec. 15th, mission accomplished. Last week Sunday during our service, we dedicated a welcome basket (and more) consisting of cleaning products, mop, broom, vacuum, etc. and he received delivery of same on Dec. 12th. On Dec. 15th, Richard received a 2nd delivery of furniture from Heritage storage and a new stove and refrigerator – all compliments of our Heritage church. Looks like Richard is on the path to a tremendous success story and we at Heritage take pride in helping him.

“I Hear the Prophet Callin’”
Words and Music by Pepper Choplin

I hear the prophet callin’,
“Prepare the way of the Lord.”
Come and make straight the way in the desert,
a highway for our God.
Prepare the way of the Lord.

I hear Isaiah callin’,
“Fear not, your God has come.”
Then will the eyes of the blind be opened.
The ears of the deaf will hear.

And then the mute will shout for joy,
and the desert will be joyful
and blossom as a rose.
We shall rejoice with joy and singing
and see the glory of God.

I hear the prophet callin’,
“Prepare the way of the Lord.”