

Prayers of the People As prayers are offered

L: God of Mercy,

P: **Hear our prayer.**

The Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory "A Star Over Bethlehem" Smith

Doxology PH#591

**BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD
INTO THE WORLD**

***Hymn** "Angels We Have Heard on High" PH#23

***Charge and Blessing** Robert Lackie

Postlude "Toccata for the Christmas Season" Smith

***Please be seated for the postlude. Thank you.**

SERMON BY: Robert Lackie
WORSHIP LEADER: Beth Kiningham
USHER/GREETER/ADVENT CANDLE: Ben Kiningham
ADVENT WREATH READER: Coleen Janssen
ORGANIST: Emma Lou Denton

*Please stand, if able CCLI License #2716138
Hymnals: PH-blue hard cover; Red-red hard cover; SF-small blue soft cover

Announcements

Every Sunday Is Food Pantry Sunday!

ATTENTION: Congregational meeting following service today.

Meals on Wheels is needing delivery volunteers for December and January. If you are interested in helping, please call the Daily Bread number at the High Rise, to sign up. 217-632-4314



Central Presbyterian Church

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**December 12, 2021
3rd Sunday of Advent**

Welcome & Announcements

Prayer (Please take a moment to prepare your heart for worship)

Prelude *“The Divine Mystery”* Lorenz

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

*Call to Worship

L: Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say Rejoice!

P: **Our joy is in the Lord who blesses us.**

L: Shout for joy, for the Lord is near!

P: **Our praises ascend to God for the mighty things God has done.**

L: Let your praise dance and swirl in tribute to God!

P: **Surely God blesses and saves us. Hallelujah! Praise be to God. Amen.**

***Hymn** *“Once in Royal David’s City”* **PH#49**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

It is getting more and more difficult, Lord, for us to keep our attention on the holy things. Our lives are caught up in the planning, parties, gifts, and other such things. We get side-tracked too easily and exhausted, we fall into restless sleep. The cries of those in need abound and we are overwhelmed by the need. Too often we turn a deaf ear because we feel we just can’t meet all the needs that are presented to us. Heal our hearts and spirits, Lord. Help us understand that you do not ask us to heal everything but rather to find a simple way in which we might lighten someone else’s burden, as you have lightened our lives. You have brought hope and peace to us. Now cause us to rejoice in the wondrous things that you have done. Teach us to use our gifts for the common good, and that in helping, we find great and abundant joy. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

(Time of silence for personal confession.)

Assurance of Pardon

The messenger has been sent to you, proclaiming that there is one who is coming who will heal and lead you. Know that this is a great gift from God, who has always and will always love you. Amen.

The Peace

L: Peace be with you.

P: **And also with you.**

***Gloria Patri** *“Glory Be to the Father”* **PH# 579**

Ladies Ensemble *“Do you Hear What I Hear?”*

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Time with Young Disciples Robert Lackie

Scripture Readings Zephaniah 3:14-20, Philippians 4:4-7

Sermon *“What do we do with Cousin John?”* Robert Lackie

Luke 3:7-18

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Hymn** *“It Came Upon The Midnight Clear”* **PH#38**

*Affirmation of Faith

Let us confess the faith of our baptism using the words of the Apostles’ Creed.

I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.