



December 11, 2022 - 10:30 a.m.

Contemporary Worship Service
Sermon Focus: Advent

OPENING SONG

GREETING

Pastor Ted

KIDS FOR CHRIST WITH MRS. JUDY

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Third Sunday of Advent (Focus: John 1:6-8, 8-11)

Reader: We light the third candle of Advent.

Reader: We look to John, the one you sent, to point us to your light. The light will come into our world and enlighten everyone.

Reader: God sent John the Baptizer to prepare the people for the coming of Jesus Christ, the true Light of the World. John called for people to repent of their sins and to live faithfully. He baptized with a cleansing water and proclaimed the new life that Christ, the one who would follow him, would bring. This Advent, we ask for God's mercy and a joyful new beginning.

People: *Merciful God, we give thanks that you send messengers like John to call us to greater faith. We ask that in these days we prepare for you in prayer and acts of holy compassion. Forgive us and lead us to your light. Amen.*

People (sing) 1 verse & refrain: O Come, O Come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel.

CALL TO WORSHIP* (All together)

Lay Reader

Reader: This is the season of anticipation.

PEOPLE: *Anticipation of the babe who came long before us. One who is more powerful than us, and we are not worthy to carry his sandals. Because of HIM we are baptized with the Holy Spirit and fire.*



SONG OF PRAISE

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Praise Team

OPENING PRAYER*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE*

LORD'S PRAYER*

Lay Reader

Lay Reader

Lay Reader

SONG OF PRAISE

Joy to the World

Praise Team

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 3:1-12

Pastor Ted

SERMON

"Prepare the Way of the Lord"

New Members Rev. Brad & Mrs. Kay Phillips

MESSAGE INVITATIONS

Invitation to Christ

Offering

Hearers and Doers of the Word

SONG OF PRAISE

What a Savior

Praise Team

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

GOING FORTH

*Lay Reader: Donna Morsi

Matthew 3:1-12

1 In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, **2** “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” **3** This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’ ”

4 Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. **5** Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, **6** and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

7 But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? **8** Bear fruit worthy of repentance. **9** Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. **10** Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

11 “I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. **12** His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

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SERVANTS OF WORSHIP

Pastor: Pastor Ted Smith

Lay Reader: Donna Morsi

Praise Team: Wendy Green, Matt Kapus, Rhonda Kapus, Blake Coe,
Susan Pleasants and Donna Morsi

Floral Arrangements: Helen Pemberton

