

Welcome to The Well

16 December 2018 Third Sunday of Advent

May God who gathers us around Himself in the Word and Sacrament to bless us with His forgiveness this morning be your source of comfort, strength and renewal as you worship today. In the Name of Christ, we are all called to come and hear that the Lord is Good!

Our Gospel reading is Luke 7.18-28 and our response is, “**Praise be to thee, O Christ**” spoken in unity aloud.

Call to Worship: Psalm 85

Hymns: Opening #188 Prayer #198 (2nd verse) Closing #187

At the presentation of our offerings we sing the Doxology # 668

Studies this Week:

Wednesday– 5:00pm – Choir Practice

The Women's Group will not meet again until January

6:30 pm – Men's Bible Study - Being a Christian Man

Thursday – 10:30am & 7:00pm – ****Ancient Christian Symbols****

We will be caroling at Bishop and June Weeks home this Friday, December 21st at 5:30. They live at 1055 Column Way 24551 Apartment 102. Pr. Tom will be leaving from the Church at 5:15 if any would like to commute with him and will return to the Church by 6:30 for the Christmas Party.

Our Christmas Covered Dish meal and party will be on December 21st at 6:30pm. There is a sign up sheet at the Welcome Center. Mr. and Mrs. Claus will be in attendance as well!

Remember to shop at smile.amazon.com for all your Amazon purchases to earn free money for the church. If you haven't signed up yet, please get an instruction sheet from the Welcome Center.

We are collecting non-perishable food items for Parkview Ministries through Advent. There is a box in the Narthex for these gifts.

Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be at 11:00pm.

The Rev. Dr. Tom Bryant, Pastor
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Sermon Notes

What Child Is This?

Pastor Tom Bryant

Second Sunday in Advent

Reader: "In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see--I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people'" (Luke 2:8-10).

Reader: Today we remember the shepherds, workers for the common good, steadfast watchmen isolated and alone, far from the warmth of home, doing the job no one wants. And yet God saw them, God valued them, and God declared the greatest news of all to them alone.

People: Today we give thanks for the shepherds among us, back-breaking laborers on whom our economy stands, those we overlook or rarely see, yet rely on for our very survival, the ones who have much to teach us about watching for God in the darkness.

Reader: On this second Sunday in Advent, we light the second candle as a symbol of the shepherds, agents of the gospel and redeemers of the world. (*Light two purple candles.*)

Third Sunday in Advent

Reader: "And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name'" (Luke 1:46-49).

Reader: Today we remember Mary, innocent and powerful, sacred and scared, worried and waiting as the Savior of all grows in her womb. She sings boldly when she might be meek; she bears her role in history with the confidence of a warrior; she is the beginning of a mighty revolution as the proud are brought down and the lowly lifted up.

People: Today we give thanks for the Marys among us, who step out of the roles society has planned; unintended pioneers determined to do as God asks; fearless and fearfully stepping out in faith, and beckoning us to do the same.

Reader: On this third Sunday of Advent, we light this candle as a symbol of Mary, mother of God, bearer of the Way.

(Light two purple candles and one rose candle.)

Pilate's _____!

1. We Know Who _____!

2. _____ Wins!

3. Our Hope is that Sure Confidence that Jesus Wins for _____!

(Truth, Wins, Jesus, Me)