



**Sunday, December 15, 2024**  
**Third Sunday in Advent**

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and from righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this. will do this. Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 (NIV)

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail." "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

Luke 1:26-38 (NIV)

## - Highland, A Place to be Seen, Known, and Loved -

**Greeters:** Joyce & Peter DeBarger, Kathy & Doug Hengst, Sandy & John Wolfe, Mary Lou and John Hershey

**Ushers:** Randy Heller, Wendy & Henry Hershey, Eileen & Harry Flick, Fred Brown, Nancy Holtzapfle

### Gathering in God's Name

Chimes & Prelude ~ Choral Anthem "For Unto Us a Child is Born"

G.F. Handel

Welcome & Ministry Highlights

Rev. Matt Drumheller

*Please sign and pass the "Friendship Pad" down the pew.  
At the end of the row, pass it back so that we can greet one another by name after the service.*

\*Advent Wreath Lighting

Rev. Matt Drumheller

Leader: "Rejoice in the Lord always, again I will say, Rejoice."

The world says, "Worry," and we say, "Take courage for God is with us"

The news says, "Fear," and we say, "Trust in the Lord"

The world says, "Be happy," and we say, "Be faithful."

Leader: As we light our third Advent candle,

People: **We pray for the holy love of God.**

Leader: Come now, O Child of Mary.

People: **Come now, O Everlasting Father.**

\*Opening Hymn #5

"Let All Moral Flesh Keep Silence"

Children's Dismissal to Sunday School

Rev. Dr. Robert Burns

*At this time, children 5th grade and under are invited to attend Sunday School. Teachers are stationed at the main doors of the sanctuary and will walk the children to the children's classrooms in the Narthex.  
Parents/Guardians may pick up their children after the service in the classroom.*

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Dr. Robert Burns

**Almighty God, as we prepare to behold the birth of Jesus again, we are mindful of how we have failed to receive the fullness of that gift. The story points us to your glory, yet we struggle to join in the song of praise and thanksgiving. We are distracted and confused, so focused on things of little significance we overlook the good news of great joy that you have prepared. Tell us again that the Savior is born. Tell us again that we are forgiven. Tell us again that our lives can be abundant in faith, hope and love because of what you have given us in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Kyrie Eleison 572

**Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Assurance of Pardon

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Dr. Robert Burns

Leader: Hear the good news of the psalmist's proclamation: If I say, "Surely the darkness will overwhelm me, And the light around me will be night," even the darkness is not dark to God. The night is as bright as the day. The God who promised never to leave us or forsake us **HAS** come to us in Jesus Christ who binds up the broken-hearted, heals all our infirmities, and relieves our burden of sin. So arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you! Thanks be to God! Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

People: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

Leader: As we are forgiven and reconciled to God through Christ Jesus, let us be reconciled to one another. The peace of the Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

\* Gloria Patri 579

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Proclaiming God's Word

Scripture Reading	Isaiah 9:2, 6-7; Luke 1:26-38	Rev. Allison Beaulieu
Message	<b>"Everlasting Father"</b>	Rev. Allison Beaulieu

Responding to God's Word

Invitation to the Offering		Glenda Burross
Offertory Solo	"The people that walk in darkness have seen a great light"	Dr. Jeffrey Martin
Prayer of Dedication		Rev. Allison Beaulieu
Prayers of Thanksgiving, Lord's Prayer		Rev. Dr. Ann Osborne

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Going in God's Name

* Closing Hymn	#15	Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers	
* Charge & Benediction			Rev. Allison Beaulieu
* Choral Response			

**O come, Desire of nations, bind All peoples in one heart and mind;  
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease; Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

\*PLEASE STAND IN BODY OR SPIRIT  
*MUSIC: DR. PAUL THORLAKSON, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC  
JONATHAN LEFEVER, ORGANIST  
A/V:*

Please be advised that services are recorded and you may be incidentally captured on video as part of the recording of the service. The back of the right side of the sanctuary as you enter is out of the range of the camera.

*A description of the stained Chancel window can be found in the front of the hymnal.*

**FM sound devices are available.** Please ask an usher for your own personal receiver.

**Cell Phones** should be silenced during the worship service.

**Video Recordings** of the service can be found on the Highland website at [www.HighlandPC.org](http://www.HighlandPC.org)

*In the event of an emergency, please refer to the card in the pew racks for evacuation and re-assembly information.*