**COON VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**“We are a family of God, striving to enrich**

**the lives of all through the love of Christ.”**

**The Third Sunday in Advent**

**13 December 2020**

**Bulletins are in honor of the Ruth Circle from Inez Beck**

**~ GATHERING ~**

**The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God**

PRELUDE On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry Mary Schultz

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Lord Jesus,

Master of both the light and the darkness,

**send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for your coming.**

We whose hearts and minds stir with questions about how to celebrate in the midst of a pandemic **seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.**

We who are anxious over many things

**look forward to your coming among us.**

We who are blessed in so many ways

**long for the complete joy of your kingdom.**

We whose hearts are heavy

**seek the joy of your presence.**

We are your people,

walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.

**To you we say, “Come Lord Jesus!”**

**Amen.**

LIGHTING of the ADVENT JOY CANDLE Bella Grethel

PIANO SOLO Joy to the World Bella Grethel

PRAYER of the DAY

**Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

DUET Who Would Send a Baby

Brian Rude and David Schultz, accompanied by Mary Schultz

**~ WORD ~**

**God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song**

FIRST READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

GOSPEL: John 1:6-8, 19-28

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON Pastor Julie Wollman

HYMN of the DAY Prepare the Royal Highway Mary Schultz

**~ RESPONSE TO THE WORD ~**

**The Holy Spirit calls us as a community to say what we believe,**

**reach out to each other, and offer gifts and prayers for God’s purposes**

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

Lord, in your mercy…**Hear our prayer.**

OFFERING and OFFERTORY PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. **Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD’S PRAYER

**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 trespasses,**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,**

**forever and ever.**

**Amen.**

POST COMMUNION BLESSING and PRAYER

**~ SENDING ~**

**God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world**

BENEDICTION

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,

The long-expected Savior fill you with love,

The unexpected Spirit guide your journey, now and forever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE People, Look East! Mary Schultz

**We remember in prayer:**

**†** *Those hospitalized this past week*

**†** *Our members whose names we lift up in prayer today:* Beverly Bagstad, Eleanor Bagstad, Tip Bagstad, Clifford Bakkum, Inez Beck, Kay Bjornstad, Evelyn Dahlen, Judy Denison, Jeanne Ebli, Lucy Hardie, Kira Foster, Bonnie Holey, Becky Ihle, Verlin Ihle, Jim Knutson, Elizabeth Larson, Russell Lee, Aaron Leisso, Sarah Leisso, Gerri Leum, Cindy Manske, Dorothy Marshall, Aaron Marx, Frank Mathison, Skyler Midtlien, Romaine Nelson, Cathy Ofte, Tim Ofte, Sherman Olson, Eunice Quast, Jojo Satona, Aaron Stakston, Terri Stakston, LaVonne Stendahl, Susan Strangstalien, Nancy Stuempges, Joyce Temp, Maggie Traastad, Lanny Westphal, Ray Williamson.

**†** *Our members who are currently in health care facilities:* Rachel Berg, Joanne Fletcher, Erma Graupe, Sylvester King Jr., Irene Larson, Irene Nestingen, Beatrice Olson (Alden), Beatrice Olson (Leonard), Edie Peterson

**†** *Those who grieve**:* Brook Strangstalien in the death of her grandmother Catherine Brown

**†** *Our members who are currently home-bound*

**†** *All those in need of God’s healing and help*

**†** *Family and friends of our members*

**†** *All those affected by recent floods*

**†** *All those affected by the COVID-19 virus*

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

**John 1:6-8, 19-28**

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’” as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

*The Word of the Lord.* ***Thanks be to God.***