

**St Paul's
UCC**

**Henderson
MN**

**December
11th,
2022**



Organ Prelude

**Ringling of
the Bell**

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.

**People: Blessed be God's name forever.
Amen.**

Leader: Beloved, now is the time to wake from
sleep.

Let us confront our sins,
and confess them to the one who is merciful and
just.

***God of great expectations, we come to you in this time of
silent confession.***

People of God, expect the unexpected.

God gives us living signs:

New things are growing in our midst and tender branches
spring forth.

This is our life expectancy.

By water and the Spirit we are joined to this wonder.

We have put on ✝ Christ,
and our sins have been washed away.

Rejoice in the way of our God, where and when we least expect
it.

Amen.

My Song Is Love Unknown #74

My song is love unknown, my
Saviour's love to me

Love to the loveless shown that they
might lovely be

O who am I, that for my sake
My Lord should take frail flesh and
die?

He came from His blest throne,
salvation to bestow

But men made strange, and none
the longed for Christ would know

But O my Friend, my Friend
indeed

Who at my need His life did spend

Sometimes they strew His way
and His sweet praises sing
Resounding all the day hosannas
to their King
Then "Crucify!" is all their breath
And for His death they thirst and
cry

Here might I stay and sing, no
story so divine

Never was love, dear King! Never
was grief like Thine

This is my Friend, in whose sweet
praise

I all my days could gladly spend

Opening prayer

Stir up your power, Lord Christ (holy pause)

Make dry places fertile ground (holy pause)

Lift up those who are pressed down (holy
pause)

Turn our grumbling into praise (holy pause)

We ask this in the name of the One who
brings salvation near. **Amen**

Gloria Patri

***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, Amen.***



Welcome
So glad you're here...

Third Sunday Of Advent

Hope

Peace

Joy



Holy
Bible

CHILDREN'S SERMON





Scripture Reading: Matthew 11:2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.” As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

THE SERMON



Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding #77

Hark! a thrilling voice is
sounding!

Christ is nigh," it seems to say

Cast away the works of darkness

O ye children of the day!"

Wakened by the solemn
warning

Let the earth-bound soul arise
Christ, the Sun, all ills
dispelling

Shines upon the morning skies

Lo, the Lamb so long expected
Comes with pardon down from
heaven

Let us haste, with tears of
sorrow

One and all, to be forgiven

So when next He comes in glory
And the world is wrapped in fear
 With His mercy
 He may shield us
And with words of love draw
 near

Honour, glory, might and
blessing

To the Father and the Son
With the everlasting Spirit
While eternal ages run

Pastoral Prayer - Silent Prayer

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 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 and ever.

Cares Chorus

*I cast all of my cares upon you.
I lay all of my burdens down at your feet.
And any time I don't know what to do,
I will cast all of my cares upon you.*



Invitation

Offertory Music

OFFERING
WE BRING OUR GIFTS TO GOD



Doxology

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.***

God of joy, you make the desert bloom
and send springs of water to thirsty ground.
Receive these gifts and use them for your
healing and justice. We ask this through
Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

OFFERING PRAYER

***Benediction**

L: The shadows are long...

C: but we await the light.

L: The ax threatens judgment...

C: but we work for justice.

L: The mighty seek power...

C: but we labor for mercy.

L: The powerful resist transformation...

C: but we see the world about to turn.

L: The wait drags on...

C: but the angels stir in anticipation.

L: The faithful labor in darkness...

C: and the expected child is born among us.

L: May the God + of Great Expectation be with you through Advent, that you may find hope, peace, joy and love.

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers #87

Rejoice, rejoice, believers!
And let your lights appear;
The evening is advancing,
And darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising,
And soon he will draw nigh;
Up! pray, and watch, and wrestle!
At midnight comes the cry.

See that your lamps are burning;
Replenish them with oil;
Look now for your salvation,
The end of sin and toil.

The watchers on the mountain
Proclaim the Bridegroom near,
Go meet him as he cometh,
With alleluias clear.

Our hope and expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
Arise, thou Sun so longed for,
O'er this benighted sphere!
With hearts and hands uplifted,
We plead, O Lord, to see
The day of earth's redemption,
And ever be with thee! Amen.

***Dismissal**

L: Go in peace and in hope-filled expectation. Watch; wait; pray; dream.

C: Thanks be to God.