

Message "A Voice for God" Pastor Peter Choi

Hymn "O Little Town of Bethlehem" UMH#230

Joys and Concerns

Prayer List: Carolyn Hendrickson family & friends, Schutz family & friends, Virginia Madsen (healing), Brad Lange (covid), Christy (healing from surgery), Julie Ratka's Aunt (covid), Marjorie Hultquist (healing), Maxine Grams (healing), and Lori Conyers's Parents (healing).

Happy Birthday to Cray Stubbs, Chad Fries, Jennifer Muller, Gaylen Hansen, Jentry Olsen, Jonathan Johnson, and Loree Johnson.

Happy Anniversary to Fred & Joyce Will, 43 years.

Pastoral Prayer—The Lord's Prayer

***Doxology** "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" UMH#94

*Offertory Prayer

As God has so richly poured gifts of love, peace, hope, and joy into our lives; let us receive the morning's offering as tokens of our gratitude for all these blessings. AMEN.

Baptism and Confirmation

Kara Suchsland

Addison Klabunde

Aiden Sinsel

Madeline Kring

Jerzee Smidt

***Closing Hymn** "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" UMH#240

Benediction

God has a message for us to deliver! Just as John came as the forerunner of Jesus, so we, too, must prepare the way for Christ into our world. Christmas is not all about us, it's about Jesus, the Rose of Sharon, who comes to offer forgiveness, who comes to transform lives, who comes to baptize with the Holy Spirit. Let us announce him with our actions and our words. Amen.

Postlude

Glen Haselbarth

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MINDEN

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Extend Hospitality to Strangers

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors.

Order of Worship December 13, 2020 3rd Sunday of Advent Confirmation Sunday

Prelude

Glen Haselbarth

Welcome and Announcements

1. Please continue to read the gospel of Luke for this Advent season. There are 24 chapters. On Christmas Eve, you will have read an entire account of Jesus' life.
2. As we celebrate the confirmation Sunday today, we thank all mentors, parents, and students who support the confirmation journey.
3. Ad Council members have decided to continue to offer only online worship until further notice.
4. The Minden Community is offering a Carry Out Christmas Dinner to all those in need on Christmas Day at 4pm at St. John's Catholic Church. To Order you must Call or Text (402) 418-1501. Delivery is also available is needed. Please let them know by December 21st.
5. Last week we received offerings of \$3,358.19. Thank you for the offerings, prayers, and food pantry items.

Third Sunday in Advent: Joy

Smidt Family

*Opening Hymns

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

"Joy to the Word, The Lord is Come"

UMH#196

UMH#246

***Call to Worship**

L: Love has come down to us this Advent Season.

P: Divine love which heals and transforms our lives.

L: With great joy, we receive that love and share it with others.

P: We open our hearts to all God's children, the last, the least, and the lost, as well as those who feel privileged.

L: The Lord has done and continues to do great things for us.

P: Praise be to God who loves us so much and who challenges us to be people of joy in this darkened world. AMEN.

***Opening Prayer**

Lord of Love and Light, shine through our darkness, bringing us hope. Open our hearts for the journey, our eyes for the light, our spirits for the peace, which you bring. Fill our mouths with laughter and speech with shouts of joy that we shall reveal the love with which you surround us. We offer this prayer in the name of the One who is coming into the world bringing your hope, love, peace, and joy, Jesus Christ. AMEN.

***Congregational Prayer**

Children's Time

Scriptures

Isaiah 61:1-4 (NIV)

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor. They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations.

Ginger Frizane

Isaiah 61:8-11 (NIV)

"For I, the Lord, love justice; I hate robbery and wrongdoing. In my faithfulness I will reward my people and make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants will be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples. All who see them will acknowledge that they are a people the Lord has blessed." I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

John 1:6-8 (NIV)

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

John 1:19-28 (NIV)

Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah."

They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?"

He said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?"

He answered, "No."

Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"

Now the Pharisees who had been sent questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

"I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie."

This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

P: Thanks be to God.