

# Digital Commons

December 13, 2020  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

## WELCOME

The abiding pleasure of the Creator,  
the complete joy of the Lord,  
the good cheer of the Spirit,  
and the glad company of all the saints who delight in the kingdom of heaven  
be with you all.

- Welcome to Highland's Digital Commons. This is still something of a new space for us. We added this to our rhythm in October because people were saying that they miss hearing a variety of voices. And others are missing the opportunity celebrate with and pray for one another. So these online morning gatherings are a space for us to see each other, share our stories, learn from one another, and pray together.

Today is going to be a bit different. (But what isn't different in these pandemic-shaped days?) If this were a typical year, we'd gather tonight for Highland's annual Christmas Soiree. Well, we thought that our next best option would be to do something online in our Digital Commons. So we here we are!

This morning on the Third Sunday of Advent, we will share our gifts to the King with one another.

- Words for the prayers and lyrics for songs will be posted at the appropriate times.

CALL TO WORSHIP ~ *O Come, All Ye Faithful* ~ played by Connie Peters & Jean Imbach

GREETING PRAYER

I invite you to greet God by praying the following words with me:

**Advent God,  
who labours in Love for the world,  
as we worship, make us like your mother, Mary.  
Like Mary, stir our hearts and minds so that they are open to hearing you.  
Like Mary, empower us, that we might boldly question angels.  
Like Mary, help us pray: your will be done.  
Like Mary, prepare us for the birth of Christ.  
Like Mary, let our souls be pregnant with hope and peace,  
and our mouths filled with messages of joyful.  
Like Mary, may we be God-bearers everywhere, every day.  
In your mercy we pray, "Maranatha—O Lord, come!"  
Amen.**

SINGING ~ *Magnificat*

My soul magnifies the Lord,  
My spirit rejoices in God.  
My soul magnifies the Lord,  
My spirit rejoices in God.

For He who is mighty  
Has done great things for me.  
Holy, holy,  
Holy, holy,  
Holy, holy  
Is His name!

—Sandra McCracken

WORD OF GOD, WORD OF LIFE ~ LUKE 1:26-56 (*read by Avry Janzen*)

RESPONSE ~ *Immanuel* ~ images by Gerald Neufeld

## CONFESSION

We have heard the invitation to make room for Joy to be born in us. We are summoned to be the bearers of the image of God: Emmanuel!

Let us do what the messengers of God—women and angels alike—call us to do and ready ourselves for Christ's advent. Let us humble ourselves and confess our fears, our failures, our infidelities to Yahweh, the One who keeps watch for us, and offers forgiveness and wholeness.

**Almighty God, always with us, always coming:**

**you fulfilled your promise to do great things for us, yet we doubt you;  
you extend your mercy to us, yet we disbelieve you;  
you lift up the humble and fill the hungry with good things,  
yet we still distrust you.**

**Forgive us and purify our conscience by the daily visitation of your Spirit,  
that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared  
for himself.**

*Listening Silence*

## OFFERINGS OF RECONCILIATION *(taken from Luke 1:46-55)*

Brothers and sisters, hear these good words taken from Luke 1:46-55, read by Seth:

Rejoice in the Advent God of Israel!

The Lord's mercy flows in wave after wave.

The Mighty One has chosen and embraced us,  
and piled on the blessings, piled them high.

It's exactly what God promised, beginning with Abraham and right up to now.

Go forth refreshed and renewed, and glorify God:

in the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven!

SINGING ~ *Joy to the World*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And Heaven and nature sing,  
And Heaven and nature sing,  
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Saviour reigns!  
Let all our songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more will sin and sorrow grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He'll come to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse was found,  
Far as the curse was found,  
Far as, far as the curse was found.  
Far as, far as the curse was found.

—*The Crossing Music*

SINGING ~ *Ding-a-Ling-a-Ring-a-Ling*, Sufjan Stevens ~ Highland Youth

MUSIC ~ *Jolly Old St. Nicholas* ~ Seth Janzen

COMEDY ~ Greg McKone

MUSIC ~ *Carol of the Bells* ~ John Wall

MUSIC ~ *Dream Catcher* ~ Helen Wall

MUSIC ~ *Good King Wenceslas* ~ Evelyn Wall

STORY ~ *A Song in Bethlehem* ~ Joyce Kehler

MUSIC ~ *Twelve Days of Christmas* ~ Jim Van Meer, James & Max Terezakis

SINGING ~ *Silent Night*

Silent night, holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
'Round yon virgin mother and Child,  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia;  
Christ the Saviour is born,  
Christ the Saviour is born!

Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light,  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

—*Ordinary Time*

PRAYING TOGETHER

**My soul proclaims your greatness, O God!  
My heart rejoices in you, my Saviour,  
because you have showered your servant with blessing!  
From this day to the end of time all generations will call me blessed;  
they will now the great things you have done for me.**

**Almighty One! Your name is holy!  
Your mercy flows to those who reverence you in every age,  
and all who seek to exalt themselves in arrogance are leveled by your  
strength.  
Depose the mighty from their seats of power,  
and lift up the lowly.  
Fill the starving poor with good things,  
and the calloused rich turn away empty-handed.  
Give the Son of the Most High the throne of David,  
and let his kingdom reign forever.**

**We offer ourselves and our prayers to you,  
for you have come to the aid of your people,  
remembering the blessing you spoke to Sarah and Hagar;  
you have piled on the mercies—piled them high—  
exactly as you promised, beginning with Abraham and right up to now.  
Trusting that no word from you will ever fail,  
let it now be to us according to what you have said.**

**Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Eve & 12 Days of Christmas  
Highland Directory  
Baptism?

COMMISSIONING ~ Sara Bareilles, *Love is Christmas* ~ Dee Van Meer

## BLESSING

Brothers and sisters,  
go now as servants of the Lord,  
obedient in faith,  
and allowing God's Word to be fulfilled in you.

As you bear God's image—Emmanuel—within you,  
let your hearts and minds be filled with hope and joy,  
and may your souls and strength be given to peace and love,  
so that God's mercy and goodwill to all might be conceived on earth as it is in heaven.  
Amen.