

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO**

**December 16, 2018
10:00 A.M.**

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENT FOR MISSION “The Christmas Joy Offering” Bob Carroll

CHIMES

PRELUDE *“Horns”* (Biggs)

LIGHTING THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

Leslie Lawner and Bob Carroll

***OPENING HYMN #104** *“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”* (Teschner)

***PRAYER OF ADORATION**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, we confess we have been slow to listen and halting in our response to the Holy Spirit's call and comfort. We often enjoy complaining and criticizing more than being constructive and compassionate. We want things to be black and white in a world of gray, and we try to avoid the agony involved in caring for those who, like us, are a mixture of goodness and flaws. Forgive us where we have been arrogant and empower us to forgive others and ourselves, after the example of Jesus the Christ who came to bring us abundant life. Amen

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel!
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

***GLORY BE TO THE FATHER #581**

“Gloria Patri” (Greatorex)

**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.**

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Please exchange these words with your neighbors: “The peace of the Lord be with you.” “And also with you.”

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 12:1-3

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT LETTERS

Philippians 4:4-7

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

“E’en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come” (Manz)

***READING FROM THE GOSPELS**

Luke 3:4-18

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

A MOMENT FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

SERMON

“Living in the Wilderness”

The Rev. Gene Harbaugh

***HYMN #96**

“On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry” (Handbuch)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

From *The Confession of 1967*

To be reconciled to God is to be sent into the world as his reconciling community. This community, the church universal, is entrusted with God’s message of reconciliation and shares his labor of healing the enmities which separate people from God and from each other. Christ has called the church to this mission and given it the gift of the Holy Spirit.

SHARING OF PRAYER REQUESTS

PASTORAL PRAYER

RETURNING TITHES AND OFFERINGS TO GOD

MUSICAL OFFERING *“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”* (Rasley)

***PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW #606**
(Genevan Psalter)

**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.**

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION**

God who sent John ahead of your Son to proclaim his coming and to call men and women to repentance, we give you thanks for this one who raised his voice in the wilderness, who calls us not only to repent, but to bear fruit of repentance. John demands that we practice justice and compassion for all your children.

In response to John’s message, we commit ourselves to the service of those around us who are powerless, voiceless, forgotten, and neglected. We recognize in John’s voice the very words of the one whose coming he announces, the one who carries the winnowing fork. We dedicate ourselves to the service and mission of this one, Jesus the Messiah, whose return is certain, and we pray in his name. Amen.

***OUR LORD’S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven,
 holy is your name;
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
 and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
 and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN #129** *“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”* (Kirchengesang)

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

***POSTLUDE**

*Please stand if you are able where asterisks are printed.

Words in **bold print** are spoken by the congregation.