

Third Sunday of Advent
December 13, 2020

The Hymnal 1982 - #640 Watchman, tell us of the night

1 Watch-man, tell us of the night, what its signs of prom - ise
2 Watch-man, tell us of the night; high - er yet that star a -
3 Watch-man, tell us of the night, for the morn - ing seems to

are. Trav - eler, o'er yon moun-tain's height, see that glo - ry -
scends. Trav - eler, bless - ed - ness and light, peace and truth its
dawn. Trav - eler, dark - ness takes its flight, doubt and ter - ror

beam - ing star. Watch-man, does its beau - teous ray
course por - tends. Watch-man, will its beams a - lone
are with - drawn. Watch-man, let thy wan - derings cease;

aught of joy or that hope fore - tell? Trav - eler, yes; it
gild the spot that gave them birth? Trav - eler, a - ges
hie thee to thy qui - et home. Trav - eler, lo! the

brings the day, prom - ised day of Is - ra - el.
are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the - earth.
Prince of Peace, lo! the Son of God is come!

Two groups may sing antiphonally, alternating by sentences.

Dear friends in Christ, as we travel towards Bethlehem in this season of Advent, we come together in the midst of a busy season to take a breath; to slow down as we anticipate Jesus' coming into the world. We are invited for a time to breathe in together the life that God gives us. To listen for the beat of God's heart and the blessings and lessons this season brings to us. Each week we light an Advent candle as a symbol of our journey. With its light comes our prayers and our stories.

The candle for this third week of Advent is a candle of JOY.

Today the flame of this candle reminds us of the joy that Jesus brings into this world and his presence with us now. Jesus said "Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete."

O God, we kindle this flame with anticipation. We long for you to come to our world, to break through and reign with compassion, justice, and peace.

Amen.

Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Almighty God, to You all hearts are open, all desires known, and from You no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, so that we may truly love you, and worthily praise your holy name; through our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen*

Jesus the light of the world comes to dispel the shadows of our hearts. Therefore, in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

Most Holy God, in the midst of this season of expectation and new life, we confess:

We have resisted the light of your love; we have not fully shared the gifts entrusted to us; and we have not treasured the gifts of others around us. Holy Trinity, make us holy. Holy God, make us whole. Amen.

May the God of love and power forgive us and free us from our sins, heal and strengthen us by the Holy Spirit, and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Let us glorify the Holy One as we say:

O Light of the world, first born of creation, radiance of glory, light from light begotten. God self-revealing, holy, bright and blessed, you shine upon us. Day's light is fleeting, your light is eternal and we look to you our light within the shadow. We sing to you O Creator, Christ and Spirit, you shine before us. Light of our world, O Jesus Christ we bless you; giver of life and Child of God we praise you. Here with us the universe proclaims your glory, as you shine among us. Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

A Reading from Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Hear what the Holy Spirit is saying to God's people

Thanks be to God

Psalm 126

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, *
then were we like those who dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter, *
and our tongue with shouts of joy.

Then they said among the nations, *
"The Lord has done great things for them."

The Lord has done great things for us, *
and we are glad indeed.

Restore our fortunes, O Lord, *
like the watercourses of the Negev.

Those who sowed with tears *
will reap with songs of joy.

Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, *
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

A Reading from 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.

Hear what the Holy Spirit is saying to God's people

Thanks be to God

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 1:6-8, 19-28

Glory to you O Christ.

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 Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Let us affirm our hope in Christ our Light:

*We believe in God, whose love is the source of all life and the desire of our lives
whose love was given a human face in Jesus of Nazareth,
whose love was crucified by the evil that seeks to enslave us all,
and whose love, defeating even death, is our glorious promise of freedom.
Therefore, though we are sometimes fearful and doubting, we trust in God;
and, in the Name of Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves,
in the service of others, to seek justice and to live in peace,
to care for the earth and to share the common wealth of God's goodness,
to live in the freedom of forgiveness and the power of the Spirit of love;
And in company of the faithful, to be the Church,
for the glory of God. Amen.*

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FOR THE SEASON OF ADVENT

O God whose Messiah's coming we await, keep us awake and alert to watch for the signs of your coming. As the fig tree puts forth its leaves and the portents of the new day dawns, keep us awake and alert for the second advent of Christ our Savior.

Keep us awake and alert to our humble calling to be the church of Christ in the world. Empower all bishops, priests and deacons to proclaim justice and truth as they care for your holy people. Christ our hope;
Shine in our hearts.

Keep us awake and alert to the needs and wants of the nations of the world. Enlighten the leaders of all nations to attend to the needs of the lowest and the least, the last and the left-out, that justice and peace may be our strength and equity our common good. Christ our hope;
Shine in our hearts.

Keep us awake and alert to the needs of the sick and suffering. Embolden our love that we may care with compassion for those in need. Give them to know of the healing care of Jesus. Christ our hope;
Shine in our hearts.

Keep us awake and alert to the needs of friends and strangers. Energize this community of faith to reach out with compassion to transform our neighborhoods and communities to reflect the beloved community of peace. Christ our hope;
Shine in our hearts.

Keep us awake and alert to those who mourn, those who grieve and those who are despondent or depressed. Enable us to be Christ hands of healing and wholeness that we may be agents of comfort and hope. Christ our hope;
Shine in our hearts.

Keep us awake and alert to the shortness of our time. Enfold those who have ended their course on earth and have joined the martyrs and saints in the region of light. May we, in our own time, come to the joys of your eternal reign. Christ our hope;
Shine in our hearts.

O God, encourage, embolden and energize your people to keep awake and alert to the coming of Jesus the Christ, that he, at his second Advent, may find us ready to greet him and eager to serve those in need; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Blessings and Announcements

Birthdays: Bob Lindsey, Mariyah Wings, Ken Flower, Matthew Caspari and Elliot Caspari

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Let us pray in the way that Christ taught us.

*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,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.*

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe.

You create the fruit of the vine; we long for the day when you will once again refresh us with the cup of salvation in the Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Glory to you for ever and ever. Amen.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe.

You bring forth bread from the earth; we long for the day when we may once again partake of the bread of life the Body of your Son Jesus Christ. As grain scattered upon the earth is gathered into one loaf, so gather your Church in every place into the kingdom of your Son. To you be glory and power forever and ever. Amen.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe.

You have blessed the earth to bring forth food to satisfy our hunger. Let this food strengthen us in the Eucharistic fast that is before us, that following our Savior in the way of the cross, we may come to the joy of his resurrection. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. Amen.

THE THANKSGIVING

God of all creation, we gather on this first day of the week made holy by the resurrection of Christ, your Son. In the waters of baptism we were buried with him so that we might also rise with him and so share his victory over sin and death.

You have transformed our lives into the living stones that form your Church with Christ as the foundation stone. Strengthen our community's bond of communion and peace and deepen our solidarity with your Church throughout the world.

Rekindle within us this Sabbath day the vision of your kingdom so that our daily concerns and labor may find their proper perspective.

Fill our homes with the spirit of the Gospel and give us the grace to see the face of Christ in the people with whom we live. We raise our voices in praise and thanksgiving to you, O God; that we who have celebrated Christ's resurrection this day share in his eternal glory where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

We have lit this candle as a symbol of our faith in the coming of Christ among us. Faith that God sees us and meets us even in the messiness of life. We now embody Christ's living flame. Let us be the light to a world in need of light, that we may be guided to Emmanuel, God with us, once more.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Hymnal 1982 - #59 Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding

Descant

2 Wak-ened by the sol-lemn warn-ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
5 Hon-or, glo-ry, might, and bless-ing to the Fa-ther and the Son,
1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing: "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
2 Wak-ened by the sol-lemn warn-ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex-pect-ed, comes with par-don down from heaven;
4 so when next he comes with glo-ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,
5 Hon-or, glo-ry, might, and bless-ing to the Fa-ther and the Son,

2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis-pel-ling, shines up-on the morn-ing skies.
5 with the ev-er-last-ing Spi-rit while un-end-ing a-ges run.
1 "Cast a-way the works of dark-ness, O ye child-ren of the day."
2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis-pel-ling, shines up-on the morn-ing skies.
3 let us haste, with tears of sor-row, one and all to be for-given;
4 may he with his mer-cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.
5 with the ev-er-last-ing Spi-rit while un-end-ing a-ges run.

Dismissal by Clarence Cherry

The flowers are given in the Glory of God by
Jackie Kavanaugh in memory of
Her mother Edith McQuitty



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

We are having the poinsettias this year, please return the form with your contribution of \$10.00 no later than December 17th.

Given by: _____

In Memory Of: _____

OR

In Thanksgiving For: _____