

**SALEM WALMER'S
United Church of Christ and Lutheran**

Robert Sim

Pastor

Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2020

Divine Worship

TIME FOR REFLECTION

*INVOCATION

*CALL TO WORSHIP Isaiah 61

P. Come, continue on the journey. It is not far now.

C. But where are we going?

P. God is welcoming us to God's kingdom.

C. Can we see it from here?

P. We see it in the faces of those who know of God's love.

C. Will that same love be given to us?

P. It already has been given, and his name is Jesus!

He is God's beloved Son, our Light and Hope.

C. Quickly, let us journey toward his light.

ALL. AMEN.

*ADVENT PRAYER AND LIGHTING OF THE THIRD CANDLE

P: The first week of Advent we were told to "pay attention". Last week we remembered the "forgotten" Today, on this third Sunday of Advent, We hear it said that "Christmas is for children", but I say to you that Christmas is for everyone, for those who have lived through many Christmases; for those whose hearts rejoice or weep at the thoughts of Christmas past. Today we celebrate these beloved people, all God's beloved ones. "This year, this year, let the day arrive, when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!" AMEN. Rejoice!

[lights the first and second candle, and the third pink candle]

ALL: Help us to pay attention, remember the forgotten, and receive Christmas fully to experience the many ways in which you enrich our lives, O God Amen.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (IN UNISON)

God of mercy, light and love, we confess that we have not been people who are quick to pray. When an emergency befalls us, we turn to pleas and prayers which usually begin with the heart-wrenching cry, "Why?". Help us to remember that you are always ready to hear and respond to all our prayers. Remind us that even though we have often failed to witness to your love and live as people of compassion and faith, you love us unconditionally. Forgive our stubbornness and willfulness. Cleanse our souls and spirits and make us truly ready to receive your light. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.

V̇. Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Kyrie

Ṙ. Lord, have mer - cy up - on . . us.

V̇. Christ, have mercy upon us. V̇. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Ṙ. Christ, have mer-cy up-on . . us. Ṙ. Lord, have mer-cy up-on . . us.

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

P. Hear the Good News!.....Your sins are forgiven.
 C. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

SCRIPTURE - 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24 ; John 1: 6-8, 19-28

***APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth:
 And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into Hades; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
 I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

SERMON - "Testing the Prophecy"

PASTORAL PRAYER and 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 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, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

***SILENT MEDITATION**

Gaudette Sunday. Pink candle is lit. Encourages us to take a deep breath before the chaos and excitement that is to come.

Christmas Eve service will be virtual. Deadline for video contributions is Sunday, December 20th.

People should have bread, grape juice or wine, and a candle for their virtual Christmas Eve.

Services are posted on Facebook, Church website www.salemwalmers.com, and links sent out by request. DVD copies can also be requested. This will be in effect for Christmas Eve too.

Sunday School lessons will continue to be provided online until further notice.

*CCLI#3273986 Walmer's Church follows Safe Church Practices.
Visit our website: www.salemwalmers.com ; Follow our Facebook Group Page*