

# ADVENT 3: When the Poor Ones Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church Sunday, December 12, 2021

 $5300\,10$ th Avenue South · Minneapolis, MN  $55417\cdot 612-825-6846\cdot$  nokomisheights.org a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Nokomis Heights is a Reconciling In Christ (RIC) Congregation. We believe the gospel is God's gift to all people, to be shared unconditionally, without regard to cultural or ethnic background; race; sexual orientation; gender identity; physical or mental abilities; socio-economic, marital, or family status; gender; or age. We welcome lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people, their partners and their families into full participation in the life and ministry of this congregation.

#### **WORSHIP LEADERS**

Pastors Kristen Capel. Steven Delzer

Organist Julie Urban

Instrumentalist Kim Bretheim, cello

Vocalists Sara Birkeland, Johan Christopherson

Lector Heather Magnuson

Sacristans Marian Blattner, Emma Lofthus

Recording/Editing Dana Lonn

**In our prayers this week:** Casey Austad, Linda Austad, Jerry Casterton, Rich Gronner, Jennifer Harris, Dee Levine, Charlie Olson, Dick Pelinka, Blanca Raniolo's sister Nelly, and Eric and Piper Roome

In-person worship in the Sanctuary, Sundays, at 10:00 am.

Adult Forum in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00 am, Sunday School in the Nokomis Room at 9:00 am.

Masks are required.

Online worship premieres at 10:00 am every Sunday.

Find us online on Facebook and YouTube! www.nokomisheights.org



Place of Worship. Space for Questions.

## **NOKOMIS HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)**

### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 12, 2021 10:00 A.M.

#### **GATHERING**

PRELUDE "When the Poor Ones" Roberts

#### WELCOME

#### **CANDLE LIGHTING**

LEADER: Each week

as we approach the Advent of our Savior Jesus Christ

on Christmas,

we acknowledge what God's people

have always known:

Even when God is active in this world,

hope is a work in progress.

Each candle on our wreath

represents a person

or a place

or a moment in time

that still awaits God's goodness.

Yet we are witnesses to God's work in this world.

Just as a small spark

can give new life to a dead wick,

we believe

the fire of God's presence

can ignite God's purpose in this place.

ALL: God, through your love,

a familiar light

can banish the fear of the other;

Through your love,

the warmth of good cheer

can extinguish cold-hearted injustice.

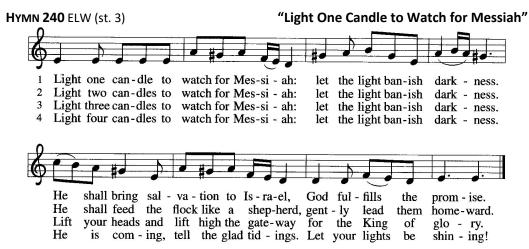
Through your love,

the song of faith

can rekindle hope for the hopeless.

LEADER: We light these candles as a small act of our great anticipation.

During the singing of the hymn, the first three candles on the Advent Wreath are lit:



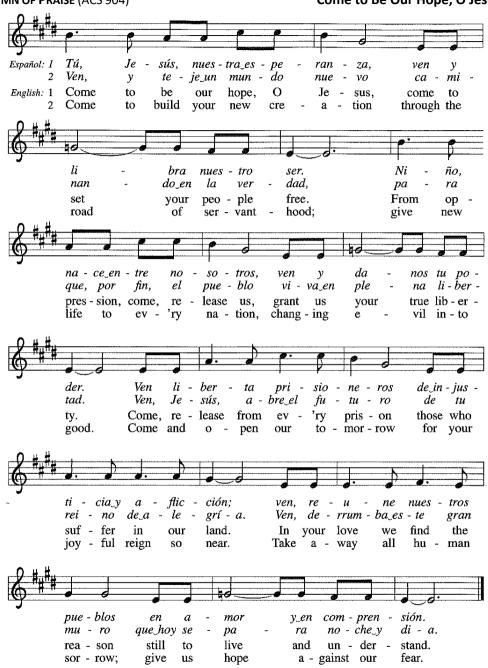
#### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

ALL: O Christ, as we wait for you we feel the pressures of the world warning of want, sanctioning self-interest, obscuring compassion.

Strengthen us to uproot greed and allow faith, hope, and love to flourish.

As we prepare your highway, let us see you walking our way.

Amen



#### WORD

THE READING Zephaniah 3:14-20

LEADER: Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL Luke 3:7-18

LEADER: John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

#### **SERMON**



#### PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Introduction

LEADER: In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

A brief silence

LEADER: Creating God, your Spirit brought forth the earth and all that is in it. Breathe life into us, that we are inspired to live in harmony with one another and the planet. Hear us, O God.

ALL: Your mercy is great.

LEADER: Shepherding God, you lead your people in paths of righteousness. Raise up prophets in our own day who warn against captivity to greed and point us to the freedom found in generosity.

Hear us, O God.

## ALL: Your mercy is great.

LEADER: Nurturing God, you come near in times of worry and need. Cradle us in your arms, that we trust you and are not afraid. Attend to any who are hungry, imprisoned, or ill this day, especially... (we pray for members and friends in need of prayer).

Hear us, O God.

## ALL: Your mercy is great.

LEADER: Rejoicing God, you exult over us in singing. Enliven the song of this assembly and bless the ministry of church musicians, especially Julie, Sara and all who offer their gifts of music at Nokomis Heights. Thank you for the gift of music that gives language to our heart and allows us to join our voices to the song of all creation.

Hear us, O God.

## **ALL: Your mercy is great.**

#### Conclusion

LEADER: God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

#### ALL: Amen



## **SHARING THE PEACE**

LEADER: The peace of Christ be with you always.

ALL: And also with you.

## MEAL

#### **GENEROSITY MOMENT**



#### **OFFERING PRAYER**

ALL: God of our waiting and watching,
we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives
to the service of all your people.
Prepare the way before us
as we meet you in this simple meal,
through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. Amen

#### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

#### LORD'S PRAYER

ALL: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be 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

COMMUNION MUSIC "Lost in the Night" Maynard

#### **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

LEADER: Most High God, you have come among us at this table.

By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

ALL: Amen

## **SENDING**

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **BENEDICTION**



#### SENDING

LEADER: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Moment of silence

**POSTLUDE** 

"Prepare the Royal Highway"

Krentz Organ

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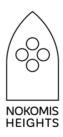
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Place of Worship. Space for Questions.