

THE WORSHIP OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD
AT SWIFT CHURCH
Third Sunday of Advent

ALL LITURGY IS CREDITED TO:
Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed/A Sanctified Art
LLC/sanctifiedart.org

GATHERING

WELCOME

PRELUDE "In the Bleak Midwinter"

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Susan Pichoff

Leader: "Teacher," the crowd asked, "What should we do?"

People: If you have two shirts, give one away.

Hold onto hope.

Live like we belong to one another.

Speak the truth.

Look for God.

Do the good that is yours to do.

Leader: It's all that easy, and it's all that hard.

People: Let us worship our present and active God.

HANDBELL CHOIR "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH:
THE CANDLE OF JOY

Chris Rogers, Autumn Bowling and Tristan Walker

RESPONSE HYMN "While We Are Waiting, Come" Vs. 1

While we are waiting, come:

While we are waiting, come,

Jesus our Lord Emmanuel,

While we are waiting, come.

MOMENT FOR YOUNG WORSHIPERS
(And the young at heart!)

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Silent Prayer "A Nativity Prayer"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Liberating God, there are days when the world can feel like it's crumbling. There are days when I doubt that I can make a difference. I ask myself, what could these two hands do? What could this one voice say? Shake me free of my own paralysis and self-doubt. Remind me that I am not called to fix everything. I am simply called to do the good that is mine to do. With hope in my heart and a fire in my bones, I pray. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Leader ...Trusting in this good news, join me in proclaiming these words of forgiveness:

People: We are loved. We are forgiven. We are invited To do the good that is ours to do. Thanks be to God for this new beginning. Amen.

***PASSING THE PEACE**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

***RESPONSE** "Gloria Patri" #623

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.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**please stand as you are able*

FIRST READING Isaiah 58:9b–12

SECOND READING Luke 3:7–16

RESPONSE

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON "Do the Good That Is Yours To Do"
Reverend Alexandra Hutson

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HANDBELL CHOIR "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

***HYMN** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Vs. 3 #123

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Excerpt from "A Brief Statement of Faith"

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ. Fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the broken hearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as

we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying. "Come, Lord Jesus!" Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HANDBELL CHOIR "Silent Night"

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

***RESPONSE** "What Can I Give Him?" #154
**What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wiseman I would do my part:
Yet what can I give Him? Give Him my heart.**

PRAYER AND DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

SENDING

***HYMN** "Angels, from the Realms of Glory" #131

***TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD**

***CHARGE**

Leader: Good people of Swift Church, who are you?
People: Striving to bring God joy, we proclaim Christ's love and Grace through serving and nurturing body, mind and soul.

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE** "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

Music is licensed through CCLI.

There will be a called congregational meeting on Sunday, December 22, 2024, immediately after the worship service to elect the class of 2027 church officers.

December Special Mission Offering

Our mission offering for December is the Presbyterian Home for Children, a ministry of the Presbyterian churches of Alabama, that cares for teenage girls who have experienced abuse or neglect, and boys and girls of all ages and their caregivers, who find themselves homeless because of poverty, abuse, or abandonment. The offering collected on Christmas Eve will be sent to support this mission. However, during the entire month of December, you can give to this mission by making your check or offering envelope "for PHFC mission."

Please join us in the fellowship hall for refreshments immediately following worship!



Welcome to Swift Church

December 15, 2024

Striving to bring God joy!



We proclaim Christ's love and
grace through serving and nurturing
body, mind, and soul.

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