

**First Presbyterian Church of Rolla**  
**Worship Service for the Third Sunday of Advent**  
*Dec. 17, 2023*

**Pre-Service Music:** *'Twas In the Moon of Wintertime* - Sandra Eithun

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude:** *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* - Matt Hyzer

**Lighting the Advent Wreath:** Litany for the First Sunday in Advent

**Advent Song#103:** *Come Now, O Prince of Peace* vs. 1

Praise to you, O God, our salvation who holds our joy and sorrow.

**You bring water to parched ground and life out of death.**

Bless us as this light grows, and send sorrow and sighing to flee away.

**Give us strength and patience, trusting that you are true to your promises.**

Transform the lives of all who suffer with your wonders near at hand.

**Candle Lighting Carol #85:** *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah* vs. 3

**Responsive Call to Worship and Prayer of the Day**

With open hands, we proclaim:

**God promises to bring good news to the afflicted, the disenfranchised, the oppressed, the tormented, the grieving, and the imprisoned.**

With open spirits, we shout with joy.

**God calls us to rejoice, pray, and give thanks constantly.**

With open minds, we gather in God's covenant.

**God sanctifies us so that we will be ready for the coming of the Lord. Let us worship God!**

**Festival of Lessons and Carols**  
**Jonathan Wilcocks**

Trumpet will play along with all congregational singing throughout the cantata.  
When you hear the trumpet, please sing along.

**CAROL: Choir and Congregation #140:**    *Once in Royal David's City*

Verse One and Two – Choir  
Verse Three – Congregation and Choir  
Verse Four – Congregation and Choir

**Prayer of the Day**

**Great God, when John the Baptist identified with Jesus, many regarded his testimony as insignificant. Yet he continued to witness to the light. When we feel unimportant to society, remind us that you have called us to fulfill the mission of Jesus. You have asked us to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, and to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners. Help us to love justice, rejoice, and witness, that righteousness and praise might spring up. Amen.**

**CAROL: Choir and Congregation #88:**    *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Verse One – Congregation and Choir  
Verse Six – Congregation and Choir  
Verse Seven – Congregation and Choir

**LESSON 1:** Genesis 3: 8 - 15

**CAROL: Choir:** *Of the Father's Love Begotten/All Creatures of Our God and King*

**LESSON 2:** Isaiah 9:2, 6, 7 and Isaiah 11:1-3a, 4a , 6 – 9

**CAROL: Choir:** *People Look East/Prepare the Way, O Zion*

**CAROL: Congregation and Choir #132:** *Good Christian Friends Rejoice*

Verse One – Congregation and Choir  
Verse Two – Choir  
Verse Three – Congregation and Choir

**LESSON 3:** Luke 1:26 – 38

**CAROL: Choir:** *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came/What Child is This?*

**LESSON 4:** Luke 2:1, 3 – 7

**CAROL: Choir and Congregation** #143: *Angels from the Realms of Glory*  
#113: *Angels We Have Heard on High*

#143: Verse One – Choir  
#113: Verse One – Congregation and Choir  
#143: Verse Four – Congregation and Choir

**LESSON 5:** Luke 2:8-16

**CAROL: Choir** *Infant Holy Infant Lowly/Silent Night*

**LESSON 6:** Matthew 2: 1-11

**CAROL: Choir and Congregation** #134 *Joy to the World*  
#611 *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

#134: Verse One – Congregation and Choir  
#134: Verse Two – Choir only  
  
#611: Verse One – Choir  
#134: Verse Four – Congregation

**LESSON 7:** John 1: 1 – 5, 10-12, 14.

**CAROL: Choir and Congregation** #133 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Verse One – Congregation and Choir  
Verse Two – Choir Only  
Verse Three – Congregation

**Dedication of Tithes and Offerings** (stand)

**Offering #710:** *We Lift Our Voices*

**Prayer of Dedication:**

**God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**Sending Hymn #106:** *Prepare the Way O Zion* vs. 1 and 3 (stand)

**Charge and Benediction:**

Prepare the Way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!  
Go in peace. Live in love. **Serve the Lord**

**Postlude:** Noel Nouvelet - Anna Laura Page

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