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**December 13, 2020**  
**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**PRELUDE**

*“Good News from Heaven the Angels Bring”*

*- Pachelbel*

**OPENING HYMN** “Hark the Glad Sound, the Saviour Comes”

Hark, the glad sound, the Saviour comes,  
The Saviour promised long:  
Let every heart prepare a throne,  
And every voice a song,  
And every voice a song.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
Thy welcome shall proclaim;  
And heaven's eternal arches ring  
With Thy beloved name,  
With Thy beloved name.

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come! Rejoice in our God.  
Let us give thanks, whatever life brings.  
May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.  
Let us prepare for the birth of love.

**GATHERING PRAYER**

Spirit of God, we give you thanks for drawing near, for touching the world in the Savior's birth. Help us draw near to you, as we prepare our hearts and our world for the justice and peace you bring. Amen.

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS****LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE****SCRIPTURE READING**

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

1 Thessalonians 5:1, 16-24

John 1:6-8, 19-28

## **SPECIAL MUSIC “A Little Shepherd Music”**

-Rev. Dr. Judith Scott: recorder; Shirley Klein: organ

## **SERMON**

Rev. Dr. Judith Scott

### **\*THE NICENE CREED**

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost and of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried, and the third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; from thence he shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceedeth from the Father, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spake by the prophets. In one holy catholic and apostolic Church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

The Nicene Creed, as we know it, actually is named the “Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed.” It was produced at the Council of Nicaea (325). It was assumed that the version with which we are familiar was decided upon at the Council of Constantinople (381) with the objective of bringing the Creed of Nicaea up-to-date with regard to heresies about the Incarnation and the Holy Spirit that had arisen since the Council of Nicaea. More recent research suggests that its development is somewhat more complex. The so-called *Filioque* clause (Latin *filioque*, “and the son”), inserted after the words “the Holy Spirit,...who proceeds from the Father,” was gradually introduced as part of the creed in the Western church, beginning in the 6<sup>th</sup> century. It was accepted by the papacy in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, and has been retained by the

Roman Catholic, Anglican, and Protestant churches; however, the Eastern churches have rejected it on theological grounds and consider it an unauthorized addition to a venerable document.

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

### **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.

### **OFFERTORY SCRIPTURE**

Malachi 3:10a "Bring the full tithe into the storehouse...and thus put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts..."

### **CLOSING HYMN "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"**

It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth  
To touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,  
From heaven's all-gracious King!"  
The world in solemn stillness lay,  
To hear the angels sing.

For lo! the days are hastening on,  
By prophet bards foretold,  
When with the ever-circling years  
Comes round the age of gold.  
When peace shall over all the earth  
Its ancient splendors fling,  
And the whole world give back the song  
Which now the angels sing.

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*“Glory to God in the Highest”*

*- Pergolesi*

*(All Hymns and Songs reprinted under CCLI)*

***Our WORSHIP is ended...our SERVICE now begins.***

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Ministers – Every Member

Pastor – Rev. Dr. Judith Scott

Young Youth Director/Bell Choir Director – Rene Miserez

Organist – Shirley Klein

*Please keep each other in prayer, particularly those for whom God's healing touch is of special comfort.*