



SOTC Worship
December 15, 2024
Third Sunday in Advent

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

“Teacher,” the crowd asked, “What should we do?”

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

It’s all that easy, and it’s all that hard.

Let us worship our present and active God.

GATHERING SONG

PREPARE THE ROYAL HIGHWAY

ELW 264

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor Aleese calls the congregation to 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.

Dear friends in Christ,
no matter how many times we lose momentum, doubt our own ability, or tell ourselves that the problems of the world are simply too big, God sees what we cannot. God calls us by name, surrounds us in grace, and invites us to begin again. Trusting in this good news, join me in proclaiming these words of forgiveness:

**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.**

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.
And also with you.

KYRIE

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

————— **WORD** —————

STORYTELLING AND ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

In preparation to receive God's Word, we light the Christ candle and pray for illumination from God's word. Take a moment for silent reflection.

READINGS: ISAIAH 58:9b-12; Psalm 37:1-7, 27-28, 34, 39-40; Luke 3:1-16

In response to the readings:

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON



Peo - ple came from all a - round just to see the tea - cher
 "Tell me, John, what should I do as a tax col - lec - tor?"
 Some are called to of - fer care, some to ex - hor - ta - tion



Liv - ing in the wil - der - ness, speak - ing to the see - kers
 "Take on - ly what's yours to take; don't a - buse your debt - ors"
 Some to hos - pi - tal - i - ty, some to ed - u - ca - tion



He had no pre - ten - tious - ness; he would tell you blunt - ly
 Sol - diers, shep - herds, fish - er - men asked him the same ques - tion
 All our gifts col - lec - tive - ly work to bring sal - va - tion



So they sought out his ad - vice on how to live just - ly
 John re - spond - ed all the same, "Share all your pos - ses - sions"
 Do the good that's yours to do with de - ter - min - a - tion

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

John the Baptist's followers once asked him, "What shall we do?"
 Church, knowing the state of the world, what is your answer?

In the Spirit of Jesus Christ, we say:

**Do not be discouraged by the weight of the world.
Instead, hold fast to hope.
Roll up your sleeves.
Feed the hungry.
Tend the garden.
If you have two coats, give one away.
Do the good that is yours to do.
In doing so, you will see God.
For this we believe: small acts of love can make a difference.
Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Response to "Lord in your mercy" is "hear our prayer."

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always!
And also with you!

Congregation is invited to share a sign of peace with others.

————— MEAL —————

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

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EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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, forever and ever. Amen.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Together we receive God's gift of love given to us in the sacrament of communion. All are welcome at the table, where Christ is our host.

Receive the bread with open hands, and receive either the wine (red liquid) or juice (clear liquid). If you do not desire to receive communion, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing. Simply cross your arms over your chest as an indication to the server.

LAMB OF GOD

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

ALL EARTH IS HOPEFUL

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

As you leave this place...
Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.
Thanks be to God!

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