

✠Prayer of Thanksgiving (*Unison*)

We rejoice in all the wonderful gifts you have given us. We rejoice because you give us joy in the midst of a sorrowful world. Thank you, Father for your Son Jesus who came into the world to save us from sin. Use these gifts we offer, which are not ours but yours, so the Joy of Salvation through Jesus Christ might reach to the farthest ends of the earth. Amen.

Closing Hymn "*Standing On The Promises*" **UMH#374**

**(The last verse of this hymn is sung after the Pastoral Prayer)*

Pastoral Prayer/Lord's Prayer

(Those who feel a need to outwardly respond to the word or who have special prayers & thanksgiving may come forward to the altar railings)

✠Benediction

✠Congregational Response "*Amen*" **UMH #898**

Postlude



✠at this sign, if you are able, please rise; *UMH* refers to the *United Methodist Hymnal*; *TFWS* refers to the hymnbook "*The Faith We Sing*"

Thanks to all the Participants in today's service:

*Advent Candle Lighting:
Chuck Burtch & Toma Hadsall*

Scripture Reader: Peter Sisk

Organist: Chris Holm

*Ushers:
Esther Mattson & Sue Kramer*

Highland Park United Methodist Church

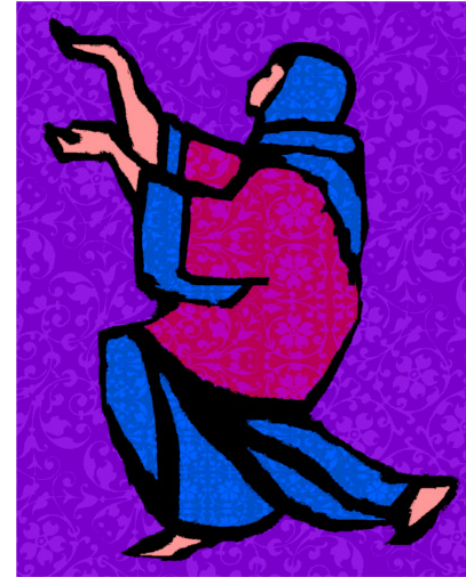
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Highland Park
United Methodist Church

Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2008



*"He himself was not the light,
but he came to testify to the light."*

- John 1:8

Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2008

Good Morning! Welcome to our worship this morning.

If you are a visitor, please sign the guest book in the narthex.

Coffee and juice will be served after the service in the social hall.

Join us for fellowship and refreshment.

Hymn Sing / Carols

Introit "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" **UMH#626**

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

✠**Opening Hymn** "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" **UMH#155**

✠Call to Worship

Leader: The true light, which enlightens everyone, is coming into the world,

People: **Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart.**

Leader: Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous.

People: **We will give thanks to his holy name.**

Welcome / Passing of the Peace

(At this time, please pass the Praise and Prayer Request and Announcement Request Card to the center aisle for the ushers to gather.)

Praise and Worship

Announcements / Praises & Prayer Requests

Prayer of the People

Lighting the Third Advent Candle Chuck Burtch & Toma Hadsall

Voice 1: The first candle of Advent is the candle of Hope; the second candle of Advent is the candle of Peace. These candles remind us that when our hope is in the Lord, we will find peace. *(The first person lights the candle of hope and the candle of Peace)*

Voice 2: The Third candle is the candle of Joy. We light this candle because Jesus shines the light of God's wisdom into our lives so that we might find true joy. *(The second person lights the candle of joy)*

Advent Prayer (Unison)

O Lord, our creator, you made each one of us and you know all things good for us. You sent your Son who died and rose again that we might be free to follow you. Through your Son we have found joy in living as your children. We lift our hearts in song, for you are worthy of our praises. AMEN.

First Lesson "Proclaiming the Lord's Coming" **Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11**

Second Lesson "Blameless Spirit and Soul" **1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

Hymn of Illumination "Thy Word" (1 verse) **UMH #601**

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way

Still You're there right beside me

And nothing will I fear as long as You are near

Please be near me to the end.

✠**Gospel** "Witnessing to the Lord's Coming" **John 1:6-8, 19-28**

✠**Response to the Gospel** "Gloria Patri" **UMH #70**

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

Message "The Dash in Our Lives" Pastor Steve Granadosin

Hymn of Dedication "Emmanuel, Emmanuel" **UMH #204**

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it." (Malachi 3:10)

✠**Doxology** **UMH #95**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

praise him, all creatures here below;

praise him above, ye heavenly host;

praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.