

The Lord be with you.

As we continue through the season of Advent, may the love of God the Father,  
and the grace of Jesus the Son, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be and abide with us all.



Shepherd's Rock Bible Church

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[www.shepherdsrock.org](http://www.shepherdsrock.org)

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Sunday, December 12, 2021

Third Sunday of Advent

“Celebrating Advent means being able to wait.”

~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer

We cross the threshold of the secular to the Sacred, from the common to the Uncommon, from the profane to the Holy.

**Come, let us worship God.**

Drawing of Manger on front of today's bulletin is by Hannah Ryan.

## **Order of Worship Service**

Let us prepare our hearts for worship!

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship: **Psalm 136**

Corporate Confession: Congregation **Stands** Responsive Reading

Elder – “Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!”

**Psalm 51:1-2**

**Congregation – “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.” Psalm 51:10, 12**

**The Heidelberg Catechism, Q #1 (Elder)**

What is your only comfort in life and death?

A. That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by His Holy Spirit He also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for Him.

Declaration of Forgiveness: **Romans 5:1-2, 5**

**Elder & Congregation: “Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And hope does not put us to shame,**

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**Sunday, December 12, 2021**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

The word advent simply means coming. The Advent season, sometimes called simply Advent, refers to the time that leads up to the coming of Christ at Christmas. The church has traditionally set aside the four Sundays before Christmas as the season of Advent. Sometimes people use Advent Wreaths and candles in the celebration.

“In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greeting O favored one, the Lord is with you!” But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant

of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.”

**Luke 1:26-38**

“Mary was not chosen because of any **human merit**, not even for being, as she undoubtedly was, deeply devout, nor even for her humility or any other virtue, but entirely and uniquely because it is God's gracious will to **love**, to choose, to make great what is lowly, unremarkable, considered to be of little value. Mary the tough, devout, ordinary working man's wife, living in her Old Testament faith and hoping in her **Redeemer**, becomes the mother of God.”

~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer

## Prayers

O God, the light of every heart that sees thee,  
the Life of every soul that loves thee,  
the strength of every mind that seeks thee,  
grant me ever to continue steadfast in thy holy love.  
Be thou the joy of my heart;  
take it all to thyself, and therein abide.

The house of my soul is, I confess, too narrow for thee;  
do thou enlarge it, that thou mayest enter in;  
it is ruinous, but do thou repair it.  
It has that within which must offend thine eyes;  
I confess and know it;  
but whose help shall I implore in cleansing it,  
but thine alone?  
To thee, therefore, I cry urgently,  
begging that thou wilt cleanse me from my secret faults,  
and keep thy servant from presumptuous sins,  
that they never get dominion over me. Amen.

~ Augustine of Hippo (354-430)

Love through me, Love of God;  
There is no love in me.  
O Fire of love, light thou the love  
That burns perpetually.

Flow through me, Peace of God;  
Calm River, flow until  
No wind can blow, no current stir  
A ripple of self-will.

Shine through me, Joy of God;  
Make me like thy clear air  
That thou dost pour thy colours through,  
As though it were not there.

O blessed Love of God,  
That all may taste and see  
How good thou art, once more I pray:  
Love through me – even me.

~ Amy Carmichael (1867-1951)

## Sermon Notes

**The LORD bless you and keep you;  
the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;  
the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.**