

Astoria First United Methodist Church  
December 12, 2021

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*Third Sunday of Advent*

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**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
*(\*please stand if you are able)*

<b>GATHERING MUSIC</b>		<b>Kristin Hammond</b>
<b>ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>		<b>Mary Frances Gunn</b>
<b>CENTERING MUSIC</b>	<i>“Coventry Carol”</i>	<b>Kristin Hammond</b>
<b>WORDS OF WELCOME</b>		<b>Mary Frances Gunn</b>
<b>HYMN</b>	<i>“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”</i>	<b>Congregation UMH #203</b>
<b>*CALL TO WORSHIP</b>	<i>(If you are able, please stand) (Read responsively)</i>	<b>Janet Todd</b>
<b>Leader:</b>	A path to our God,	
<b>People:</b>	Winding through the ordinary,	
<b>Leader:</b>	Weaving through the busyness,	
<b>People:</b>	Overcoming roadblocks and detours.	
<b>Leader:</b>	A way to go home,	
<b>People:</b>	Leaving the past in the past,	
<b>Leader:</b>	Moving from darkness and exile,	
<b>People:</b>	Coming into the light.	
<b>Leader:</b>	Advent is a path to our God,	
<b>People:</b>	A way to come home,	
<b>Leader:</b>	A discovery of God's voice:	
<b>People:</b>	Rejoice, rejoice. God is with us!	
<b>ADVENT WREATH</b>		

**OPENING PRAYER**

**Rev. Ron Crandall, retired**

Ever present God, you taught us that the night is far spent and the day is at hand. Grant that we may ever be found watching for the coming of your Son. Save us from undue love of thee

world, that we may wait with patient hope for the day of the Lord, and so abide in him that when he shall appear, we may not be ashamed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE READING**                      *“Isaiah 12:2-6”*                      **Janet Todd**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**                      *“God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”*                      **Kristin Hammond**

**CALL TO RECONCILIATION**                      **Rev. Ron Crandall, retired**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**      **(congregation)**                      **Janet Todd**

We confess this, Lord: We would rather trust ourselves. We would rather venerate our past—our pride in family lines, honored traditions, historic institutions. We would rather glorify our future—our opportunity for posterity, prosperity, and popularity. O Lord, how merciful you are for not forsaking us! You send us messenger after messenger, only to be mocked, and word after word, only to be despised. Now your greatest messenger is about to be born, a messenger who not only will speak and do your word, but embody it. Do you know what you do? Help us to trust you, Lord. We cannot comprehend this thing that is about to happen, this baby who will be our savior. We have learned well how we can be custodians of law, guardians of culture, and champions of religion; we do not know how—or if—we can be disciples of such a one as this. Prepare us for the bearer of the gospel, O God, lest we receive the good news as bad news, and turn our backs.

**MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**                      **Rev. Ron Crandall, retired**

**INVITATION TO OFFER OUR BEST GIFTS TO GOD**

**\*DOXOLOGY**                      **Congregation**  
**UMH #95**

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**HYMN OF PREPARATION**                      *(all verses)*                      **Congregation**  
*“All Earth is Waiting (Toda la Tierra)”*                      **UMH #210**

**GOSPEL LESSON**                      **“Luke 3:10-18”**                      **Rev. Ron Crandall, retired**

**SERMON**                      *“What Shall We Do?”*                      **Rev. Ron Crandall retired**

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**                      **Mary Frances Gunn**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**Rev. Ron Crandall, retired**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom (kin-dom) 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, (kin-dom), the power, and the glory, forever.  
AMEN*

**HYMN**

*“Like a Child”*

**Congregation  
FWS #2092**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**Rev. Ron Crandall, retired**

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**We welcome to our friends from the Warrenton UMC  
as they join us for worship.**

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**December 19** - the last Sunday of Advent we will again be lay led and finish the Advent  
Video *All the Good*.

One of the best ways we can continue to uphold Pastor Michael is to attend  
worship in his absence.

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**We still need volunteers for liturgist each week.  
Please call Sue Hicks or Mary Frances Gunn if you wish to help.  
If you want to provide special music – let Mary Frances know.  
We now have recordings of the worship services available as a link.**