

*Our Mission:
Love God
Love Others
Make Disciples*



*Our Vision:
Be the hands
and feet
of Christ*

**December 13, 2020
Order of Worship
Third Sunday of Advent**

Prelude
Greeting

Light the Candle of "JOY"

LITANY OF JOY

God of heaven and earth, you sent your servant John as a messenger to your people, bringing news of your goodness to the world, your Word of Life and Light.

Let us bring news of your goodness and Light.

We believe that the true Light—your true Light—shines on all people and comes to us.

Let us proclaim news of your Light through all the earth.

We welcome and honor your Light and your Word, which became flesh and dwells among us.

Open our hearts to welcome you.

Light of the world come, draw near to us.

In this Advent season, come, your Light, into our dim world.

Light of the world come, draw near to us.

Shine your star that we might follow.

Light of the world come, draw near to us.

Enhance our view and lighten our path.

Light of the world come, draw near to us.

Let your love overflow in us, through us, beyond us. AMEN.

Call to Worship

Unclog your ears; listen for the voice breaking through the winds of the wilderness [crying out], "Make straight the way of the Lord!"

Watch for the light!

Adjust your eyes; the true light is coming to illumine us too.

Witness to the light!

When the world questions, neglects, and denies this light, unlock your mouths!

Speak the truth of this light!

Look alive, take notice: One who is greater *is* coming.

We celebrate and bear witness to the gift of the true light. AMEN.

Opening Prayer

Why do you bother, Jesus,
when we are so certain
that we can create life for ourselves?
When we try to pretend
that we aren't frightened of those different from us,
that we aren't driven by our insecurities and greed,
that we aren't overwhelmed by life and its challenges?

Why do you still come to us?
Why do you send us your messengers?
Why do you invite us into the water
to be refreshed, washed, changed?
Why do you embrace stables and crosses
to offer yourself as Shepherd to the lost sheep we are?

Somehow, it seems, in ways that we may never understand
you really are a God of infinite grace;
Somehow, your judgment and your grace are not opposites,
but expressions of the same surprising reality,
That you always seek to save, to restore, to renew;
that your forgiveness and your commandments together
offer us a way to be fully alive.

Thank you. **AMEN.**

Opening Hymn

I Will Call upon the Lord

TFWS. 2002

**I will call upon the Lord who is worthy to be praised.
So shall I be saved from my enemies.
I will call upon the Lord.**

**The Lord liveth, and blessed be the Rock;
and let the God of my salvation be exalted.
The Lord liveth, and blessed be the Rock;
and let the God of my salvation be exalted.**

Concerns of the Community

Pastoral Prayer

Advent Credo - Daniel Berrigan, S.J.

It is not true that creation and the human family
are doomed to destruction and loss—

This is true:

**For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son,
that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life;**

It is not true that we must accept inhumanity and discrimination,
hunger and poverty, death and destruction—

This is true:

I have come that they may have life, and that abundantly.

It is not true that violence and hatred should have the last word,
and that war and destruction rule forever—

This is true:

**Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given,
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
his name shall be called Wonderful Councilor, Mighty God,
the Everlasting, the Prince of Peace.**

It is not true that we are simply victims of the powers of evil
who seek to rule the world—

This is true:

**To me is given authority in heaven and on earth,
and lo I am with you, even until the end of the world.**

It is not true that we have to wait for those who are specially gifted,
who are the prophets of the Church before we can be peacemakers—

This is true:

**I will pour out my spirit on all flesh
and your sons and daughters shall prophesy,
your young men shall see visions
and your old men shall have dreams.**

It is not true that our hopes for liberation of humankind,
of justice, of human dignity, of peace
are not meant for this earth and for this history—

**This is true: The hour comes, and it is now,
that the true worshipers shall worship God in spirit and in truth.**

**So let us enter Advent in hope,
even hope against hope.**

Let us see visions of love and peace and justice.

**Let us affirm with humility, with joy, with faith, with courage:
Jesus Christ—the life of the world.**

Hymn

My Life Is in You, Lord

TFWS 2032

**My life is in you, Lord; my strength is in you, Lord;
my hope is in you, Lord; in you, it's in you.
My life is in you, Lord; my strength is in you, Lord;
my hope is in you Lord; in you, it's in you.
I will praise you with all of my life,
I will praise you with all of my strength;
with all of my life, with all of my strength.
All of my hope is in you.
My life is in you, Lord; my strength is in you, Lord;
my hope is in you, Lord; in you, it's in you.
My life is in you, Lord; my strength is in you, Lord;
my hope is in you Lord; in you, it's in you, in you.**

Young Disciples' Time

Anthem

Joy in the Morning

Scripture Reading

John 1:6-8, 19-28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

This is the word of God, for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Waiting for Something Greater"

Pastor Orr

Benediction

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*Our Vision:
Be the hands
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Traditional Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Live Online

3700 W. Northgate Drive
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972-252-8519
www.northgateumc.org

Today's Worship Leaders

PreacherPastor Freddie Orr
Liturgist..... Valerie Orr
Music Director David Forbus
Accompanist..... Laura Benton
A/V Team Cary Marsalis, Jay Marsh

HOW DO YOU GET TO CHURCH WITH US ON SUNDAYS?

Join our live-streamed worship service starting at 10:45am Sunday.

The service will be presented online on FaceBook live, but you do not have to be a FaceBook user to watch it.

- Go to our website: www.northgateumc.org
- Scroll down to the bottom of the opening page to the lower right hand corner.
- Click on the  button and you'll be connected to the live stream.
- Enjoy this special community experience during worship.
- You may also access the service by using this link -

<https://www.facebook.com/Northgate-United-Methodist-Church-170310129989/>

If you somehow miss the live-stream, you will still be able to access the service through the website later.

For SermonByPhone: Call 972/203-8099

HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT NORTHGATE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH?

You may:

1. **Mail a check** to Northgate United Methodist Church at 3700 W. Northgate Dr., Irving, TX 75062
2. **Drop a check** into the locked mailbox by the East side of the front main entrance double doors. Contents are not accessible without a key, so your donation will be safe. It is checked regularly.
3. **Online** through our conference offices via a link located on our website. Go to www.northgateumc.org; scroll to the bottom of the front/first page of the site; click on the "Donate Here" button and follow the instructions. Please note the complete name of the church: Northgate United Methodist Church.

Thank you for your generosity. We hope to "see" you Sunday morning! Be safe. Be Blessed.