



Seeking the Light

"One Art"

The art of losing isn't hard to master;
so many things seem filled with the intent
to be lost that their loss is no disaster.

Lose something every day. Accept the fluster
of lost door keys, the hour badly spent.
The art of losing isn't hard to master.

Then practice losing farther, losing faster:
places, and names, and where it was you meant
to travel. None of these will bring disaster.

I lost my mother's watch. And look! my last, or
next-to-last, of three loved houses went.
The art of losing isn't hard to master.

I lost two cities, lovely ones. And, vaster,
some realms I owned, two rivers, a continent.
I miss them, but it wasn't a disaster.

—Even losing you (the joking voice, a gesture
I love) I shan't have lied. It's evident
the art of losing's not too hard to master
though it may look like (Write it!) like disaster.

Elizabeth Bishop

**The Worship of God
Second Sunday of Advent**

December 8, 2013

8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

WELCOME TO THIRD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We are grateful for your presence this morning. Third Church strives to be a faithful, open and inclusive congregation. We are a diverse people united by a common faith in Jesus Christ and by meaningful worship and service. We invite all who are seeking to live a life of Christian faith and discipleship to join us. If you are new to Third Church, the following information may be helpful.

Parking on Sunday mornings. Parking is available in the Meigs Street parking lot. On Sundays, the Arnold Park parking lot is available for handicap parking only. Street parking is possible on both sides of East Avenue. Additional parking can be found at (all on East Avenue):

- Jewish Community Federation (Sibley Place)
- Seneca Waterways Council of the Boy Scouts
- American Association of University Women
- Rochester Area Community Foundation
- Century Club

In the event of a medical emergency, please notify an usher or staff member. An AED and first aid supplies are located in the hallway between the sanctuary and elevator

Hearing Assistance. The Chapel and Sanctuary are equipped with induction loop systems. Use the "T-switch" of your hearing aid. If you have difficulty hearing during the worship service, please speak with an usher immediately.

An Elevator is located at the Parish House-Education Building junction to assist in accessibility to all floors/areas of the church.

Large Print Bulletins and Bibles are available from the ushers. Hymnals and Bibles are located under the first row pews.

Children and Worship Children's worship bulletins, Bibles and activity bags are available from the ushers.

Church School is available for children, preschool through sixth grade during the 10:45am worship service.

Child Care is available in the Education Building for infants and toddlers to age three.

Coffee Hour follows the 10:45am worship service. All are invited to this time of fellowship in the Celebration Center.

Pastoral Care needs and prayer requests may be communicated to Martha Langford.

More About Membership. If you are interested in joining Third Church, or just want to know more, contact Lynette Sparks.

A WORD ABOUT THIS CHURCH

THIRD CHURCH participates in the Presbyterian Church (USA) Commitment to Peacemaking. Our intention is to pursue avenues of peace and justice for ourselves, our families and communities, for all people in the world in which we live. We seek to be agents of reconciliation.

THIRD CHURCH has joined with other Presbyterian congregations in declaring ourselves to be a "More Light" church. We are committed to the full participation of all persons in our church community without regard for sexual orientation, personal background or human condition.



www.thirdpresbyterian.org



Find us on Facebook: "Third Presbyterian Church"

THIRD CHURCH STAFF

OFFICE: 271-6513; VOICEMAIL: 271-6537

John Wilkinson, Pastor	ext. 105
Martha C. Langford, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care	ext. 108
Lynette K. Sparks, Interim Associate Pastor for Outreach and Evangelism	ext. 106
William W. Young, Pastor Emeritus	
Peter A. DuBois, Director of Music/Organist	ext. 109
Christina A. Lenti, Associate Director of Music	ext. 110
Tom Mueller, Assistant Organist	
Rebecca D'Angelo-Veitch, Coordinator of Children's Ministries and Congregational Life	ext. 118
Jane S. Carden, Youth Ministry Coordinator	ext. 107

Preparation for Worship

We come to worship from a busy and noisy world. As we prepare to offer ourselves in praise and adoration of God, it is important that we step back from our preoccupations and focus our thoughts on God. We ask that you please turn off all cell phones and pagers. As the music begins this morning, please take time to become more aware of the continuing presence of God.

* *Stand as you are able*

PRELUDE “Sonata in G Major” J.S. Bach
Adagio – Allegro ma non tanto Jenny Väitalo, *viola*

LIGHTING of the ADVENT CANDLE

8:30—Jan and Jim Widboom
10:45—Jennifer Dinse, Angela Johnson, Chloe Dinse-Johnson

LEADER: The Lord be with you.

PEOPLE: **And also with you.**

LEADER: The prophet Isaiah wrote that “a shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

PEOPLE: **The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.**

LEADER: His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth.

PEOPLE: **The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.**

LEADER: The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain.”

PEOPLE: **Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!**

(sung three times)



Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.



5
Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

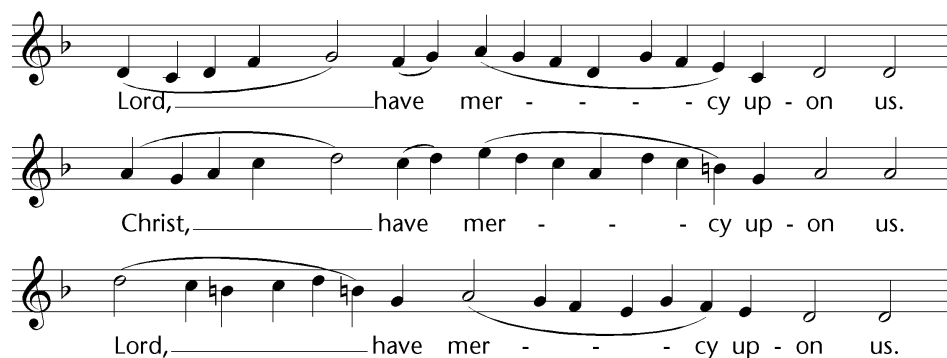
* HYMN 13 "Prepare the Way"

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

PRAYER
of CONFESSION

O holy God, our very waiting in Advent is itself a confession: If we are waiting for Emmanuel, we are not yet with you; if we are waiting for Jesus, we need a Savior. If we are waiting for a Messiah, the proud are still powerful, the mighty are still exalted, the hungry stand unheard at the door. If we are waiting for your incarnation in human form, we confess that we have not known you in our sister, we have not loved you in our brother, we have not served you in our neighbor. In this time of great meaning, in the stillness of Advent love and light, hear our deepest confession; heal us, forgive us, make us new through the good tidings of our Savior, Christ the Lord. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER
KYRIE



Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

LEADER:

Friends, believe the good news.

PEOPLE:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

* RESPONSE:

organ intro

Glo-ry be to God: Cre - a - tor, Christ, and
Ho - ly Ghost. As it was in the be - gin-ning, is now, and ev-er
shall be: World with-out end. A - men! A - men!

Peter DuBois, 2007

BELL ANTHEM

(10:45)

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

Karen Buckwalter
Third Church Ringers

CHILDREN’S
MESSAGE

(10:45)

(Following the children’s message, children up to first grade are invited to proceed to the education building for Large Group Sunday school. The nursery is available for children to age three on the middle level of the education building.)

DISMISSAL
of CHILDREN

(10:45)

(sung twice: once in unison, once as a canon, beginning with the pulpit side)

Go with us, Lord, and guide the way Through
this and ev - ery com - ing day, That in Your Spir - it
strong and true Our lives may be our gift to You.

text: Mary Jackson Cathey, 1986
music: Thomas Tallis, adapt. Parker's *Whole Psalter*, c.1561

WORDS of WELCOME

(We ask that you sign the Friendship Pad and pass it to the person next to you in the pew. Please greet those worshipping with you at the close of the service.)

EPISTLE LESSON

LEADER:

Romans 15:4-13

(Pew Bible, NT, page 163)

PEOPLE:

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM "How Lovely Are the Messengers" Felix Mendelssohn

How lovely are the messengers that preach us the gospel of peace!
To all the nations is gone forth the sound of their words,
throughout all the lands their glad tidings.

- Romans 10:15

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 3:1-12 (Pew Bible, NT, page 2)

LEADER: The Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "Growing in Change" John Wilkinson

* HYMN 3 "Comfort, Comfort You My People" PSALM 42

* AFFIRMATION
of FAITH

from Our Song of Hope, Reformed Church in America

Our only hope is Jesus Christ. After we refused to live in the image of God, He was born of the virgin Mary, sharing our genes and our instincts, entering our culture, speaking our language, fulfilling the law of our God. Being united to Christ's humanity, we know ourselves when we rest in Him.

Jesus Christ is the hope of God's world. In His death, the justice of God is established; forgiveness of sin is proclaimed. On the day of the resurrection, the tomb was empty; His disciples saw Him; death was defeated; new life had come. God's purpose for the world was sealed.

Come, Lord Jesus: We are open to your Spirit. We await your full presence. Our world finds rest in you alone. Amen.

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE
and THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Prayer request cards can be found in the pew racks)

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

PRESENTATION
of OFFERINGS

ANTHEM

“Salvation is Created”

P. Tchesnokoff

Salvation is created in midst of the earth, O God. Alleluia.

* RESPONSE



Faith - ful Lord of all things liv-ing, by whose boun-ty all are blest;
bread to hun gry bo-dies giv-ing, jus-tice to the long-op-pressed.
For the strength of our sal - va-tion, light and life and length of days,
praise the God of all cre-a-tion, set your souls to sing God's praise!

Text: from the hymn "Praise the God of Our Salvation" by Timothy Dudley-Smith
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8.7.8.7 D
Tune: MEIGS ST.
Music: © 2004 Peter DuBois

LEADER: The Lord be with you.
PEOPLE: **And also with you.**
LEADER: Lift up your hearts.
PEOPLE: **We lift them to the Lord.**
LEADER: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
PEOPLE: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**
ALL: **God of our salvation, you straighten the winding ways
of our hearts and smooth the paths made rough. Keep
our conduct blameless, keep our hearts watchful in
holiness, and bring to perfection the good you have
begun in us. We ask this through him whose coming is
certain, whose day draws near; your Son our Lord
Jesus Christ. Amen.**

* HYMN 15

“Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers”

LLANGLOFFAN

* CHARGE
and BENEDICTION

* CONGREGATIONAL
RESPONSE

(8:30)

**God be with you till we meet again;
Loving counsels guide, uphold you,
With a shepherd's care enfold you,
God be with you till we meet again.**

* CHORAL
RESPONSE
(10:45)

* GREETING

POSTLUDE "Prelude and Fugue in G Major" Felix Mendelssohn

*The flowers this morning are given to the glory of God
in loving memory of Christopher Mould, by his family.*

*The Memorial Prayer Candle is lit this week for those who
suffer from hunger in our community and in the world.*

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS MORNING'S SERVICE:

PREACHER: John Wilkinson
LITURGISTS: (8:30) Martha Langford, Lynette Sparks
(10:45) Martha Langford, Lynette Sparks, Christie Lutzer
ACOLYTES: Jonathan Lutzer, Aidan Weis
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/ORGANIST: Peter DuBois
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Christina A. Lenti
ASSISTANT ORGANIST: Tom Mueller
GREETERS: (10:45) Bob Eames, Maryjane Link, Jeff Morrison,
Kelly Thevenet Morrison, Betsey Wheeler
USHERS: (8:30) Deb Allyn, Suzy Hengerer
(10:45) Elmer Dustman, Ann Haag, Hope Herting,
Gloria Pleger, Rebecca and Don Schichler, Anne Sievers
COFFEE HOUR HOSTS: Youth Chili-Bake-off Lunch and Bake Sale

A profound thank you to Third Church members and staff for your support in the General Assembly moderatorial process. Thanks to those who were able to be present for the presbytery meeting at the Brighton Church, and to the many of you who have expressed your well wishes.

Along with your prayers, several have asked what they may do to support this effort. Stay tuned for details after the first of the year. In the meantime, you can visit www.johnwilkinsonpcusa.com or, if you are a Facebook user, www.facebook.com/johnwilkinsonpcusa.

Again, thank you for your prayers and support. May your Advent be filled with blessings as we prepare for the birth of the Christ child.
John Wilkinson

SPECIAL MUSIC next Sunday

The Chancel Choir and instrumental ensemble will present special music for Advent next Sunday, December 15 during the 10:45am worship service. The featured work will be "A Little Advent Music" by 20th century German composer Hugo Distler. It's composed as a set of chorale variations based on the Advent hymn, "Savior of the Nations, Come," found in The Presbyterian Hymnal at #14. Scored for choir, narrator, flute, oboe, violin, cello and organ, it is a delightful piece by a wonderful composer. In addition to the Distler piece, the choir will also offer a motet by Johannes Brahms on a different Advent hymn, "O Savior, Throw the Heavens Wide." A special music offering will be received to support the expenses of the presentation.



December 8, 2013

MINISTRY, SERVICE, AND FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Spiritual Formation Today

Sunday Seminar: Johnston Hall—9:30am
A four-week series on the arts that feeds our spiritual journeys: Sacred Music: Hymns of the Wesleys with Vincent Lenti

Growing in the Word: Parlor—9:30am
Isaiah 11:1-10 with Beth Laidlaw

Intercessory Prayer, 10:00 in the Chapel

Spend time in silent prayer, light a candle, or request intercessory prayer with one of the Deacons. To add names to the weekly congregational prayer list, please contact Martha Langford, 271-6537, ext. 108 or mlangford@thirdpresbyterian.org.

Gospel Beginnings in Advent

Mondays in December, 5:30pm, Whitney Room
Each of the four gospels begins in a unique way; let's come together to read them, savoring their individual perspectives and exploring them in their chronological contexts. Third Church Parish Associate Lucinda Hedges will lead the hour-long studies.

Chili Cook-Off and Bake Sale Today!

The Youth invite you to sample several varieties of delicious chili and vote for your favorite! Also, pick up some fresh baked goods. Proceeds support the Third Church Youth Program.

Holiday SCRIP Gift Card Sales

Plan on giving gift cards this holiday? Purchase them from the Youth. They are available during coffee hour.

Christmas Basket Needs

Contributions for the "Mitten and Underwear Tree" as well as cash for Christmas food

baskets are still needed. All contributions gratefully accepted!

Outreach Pre-Christmas Sale

Today and December 15, Coffee Hour
Gift items from some of our Outreach programs will be on sale during coffee hour in the Celebration Center.

- Palestinian fair trade olive products will be available today. Items will be sold at cost and benefit the farmers of the Canaan Fair Trade Association
- Handsome commemorative glasses from the East Avenue Grocery Run will be available December 8.
- Peruse the selection of holiday cards, handmade gift items and visual art on today and December 15. Proceeds support Corner Place programs.

U of R Chapel Worship This Evening at 5:00pm

All are invited to attend the Protestant Chapel Community's (PCC) annual service of Lessons and Carols at the University of Rochester's Interfaith Chapel, Sunday, December 8 at 5:00pm. Third Church is hosting the after-service dinner for the youth of the PCC. Contact Ann McMican for more information.

Thursday Voices

December 12

During Advent, we are studying the lectionary Scripture passages assigned for each Sunday. This week we will explore Isaiah 35:1-10, Psalm 146:5-10, James 5:7-10 and Matthew 11:2-11 with Martha Langford.

Junior Choir Christmas Cookie Sale

Members of the Junior Choir invite you to their bake sale next Sunday. Proceeds will help support their spring musical, "The Rock Slinger and His Greatest Hit" and other special events.

Happy Bunch Lunch on December 15

The Happy Bunch invites you to join them for the "Third Sunday" brunch next week, 12:30pm at the Country Club Diner. Contact Ralph Carter, rcarter56@gmail.com, 271-7649.

December 15 Special Advent Event

Come to the Celebration Center at 6:00pm for a simple spaghetti supper prepared by the Congregational Fellowship Committee. Families are invited to bring a gift for our friends at Cameron Community Ministries. We will wrap the gifts and make cards to be sent to our homebound members. The evening will close with a time of carol singing. Join us for this casual celebration of the season. So that we can plan for food, please RSVP to Becky D'Angelo-Veitch at 271-6537, ext. 118 or rveitch@thirdpresbyterian.org no later than December 8. There is no set charge for this event, though a free-will offering to offset food costs is appreciated.

Next Exploring Membership Dinner

Have you found your way to Third Church and want to know more? Have you been active in the church and consider deepening your ties to this community of faith? Are you interested in becoming a member, but have questions?

Then an Exploring Membership Dinner is just for you. Meet members, staff, and other newcomers. Share your story and hear about the journeys that brought others here. Explore ways to connect with others and to put your faith in action. Our next Exploring Membership Dinner will be on Sunday, January 19 at 6pm. For more information or to reserve your place at the dinner, please RSVP to Lynette Sparks (271-6513, ext. 106 or lsparks@thirdpresbyterian.org.)

Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival

HELP SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT THE BOAR'S HEAD FESTIVAL If you're planning on sending out Christmas cards in the coming weeks to friends and relatives, you can help spread the word about the Boar's Head Festival, as well. Small pre-printed

announcements are available in quantities for you to pick up in the church office during the week, or at coffee hour on Sunday mornings. These can be enclosed with your Christmas cards to serve as a personal invitation to come and enjoy the festivities on January 11 and 12!



Thank you to all who have presented your pledge for 2014. As of December 1, we have received 278 responses pledging a total of \$725,437 (79%) towards a goal of \$912,500. We will continue to receive pledge cards by mail or you may make a confidential pledge to Carol Foster at 271-6537, ext. 111, or cfoster@thirdpresbyterian.org.

Christmas Decorations

If you would like to make a donation to help support the cost of our Christmas decorations, please send your check to the church office marked "Christmas Flowers" and note clearly the names that should be included in the Christmas Eve bulletins.

I would like this gift to be:

_____ *In loving memory of:*

_____ *In honor of:*

_____ *In celebration of:*

_____ *A donation from:*

Today is the deadline for receiving donations.

Advent Poems on Display in the Gallery...

Visit the Third Church Gallery to read the Advent scripture passages, a brief poem or two for each Sunday, and corresponding Third Church photos.

Boy Scout Troop 31 Christmas Tree Sales

Troop 31 is selling Christmas trees in the Third Church parking lot. Stop by any time during the week, Saturdays and following the 10:45am service on Sunday mornings.

HUNGER SUNDAY

Next Sunday please bring:

Canned Fruits and Vegetables (14-15 oz)

Canned Soup (Chicken Noodle, Tomato)

Food Cupboard needs your donations

EVERY SUNDAY!

"The Waking"

I wake to sleep, and take my waking slow.
I feel my fate in what I cannot fear.
I learn by going where I have to go.

We think by feeling. What is there to know?
I hear my being dance from ear to ear.
I wake to sleep, and take my waking slow.

Of those so close beside me, which are you?
God bless the Ground! I shall walk softly there,
And learn by going where I have to go.

Light takes the Tree; but who can tell us how?
The lowly worm climbs up a winding stair;
I wake to sleep, and take my waking slow.

Great Nature has another thing to do
To you and me, so take the lively air,
And, lovely, learn by going where to go.

This shaking keeps me steady. I should know.
What falls away is always. And is near.
I wake to sleep, and take my waking slow.
I learn by going where I have to go.

Theodore Roethke

CALENDAR FOR December 8—December 15

8:30 am	Child Care	CE
8:30 am	Worship	Chapel
9:30 am	Youth Church School	CE/201
9:30 am	Sunday Seminar	JH
9:30 am	Growing in the Word	Parlor
9:45 am	Child Care	CE
10:00 am	Intercessory Prayer	Chapel
10:45 am	Worship	Sanctuary
11:00 am	Church School	CE
12:00 pm	Coffee Hour/Youth Fundraiser Lunch & Bake Sale	CC
4:30 pm	Junior High Bells	Sanctuary
4:30 pm	Covenant Ringers	Moot Arts Room
5:00 pm	Worship Service at University of Rochester Chapel	<i>Off Site</i>
5:15 pm	Covenant Singers	Choir Room
6:00 pm	Youth Fellowship/Dinner	CC

Monday, December 9

8:30 am	Chapel Bells	Moot Arts Room
9:30 am	Food Cupboard	CC
5:30 pm	Advent Small Group	Whitney Room
6:00 pm	Spiritual Formation	Parker Room
6:00 pm	Boy Scouts	CC
6:45 pm	Yoga	JH
7:00 pm	Explorer Crew	CE/B04
7:00 pm	Youth Committee	Whitney Room

12:00 pm	Thursday Voices	JH
1:00 pm	Book Club	Library
5:30 pm	Joint Budget & Finance	JH
5:45 pm	Third Church Ringers	Moot Arts Room
7:00 pm	Outreach Steering Committee	Whitney Room

Saturday, December 14

10:00 am	Dining Room Ministry	CC
10:00 am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary

Sunday, December 15

8:30 am	Child Care	CE
8:30 am	Worship	Chapel
9:30 am	Junior Choir Rehearsal	Moot Arts Room
9:30 am	Youth Church School	CE
9:30 am	Sunday Seminar	JH
9:30 am	Growing in the Word	Parlor
10:00 am	Intercessory Prayer	Chapel
10:45 am	Worship	Sanctuary
11:00 am	Church School	CE
12:00 pm	"Rock Slinger" Planning Team	Moot Arts Room
12:00 pm	Happy Bunch Out to Lunch	<i>Off Site</i>
12:00 pm	Coffee Hour	JH
4:30 pm	Junior High Bells	Moot Arts Room
4:30 pm	Covenant Ringers	Sanctuary
5:15 pm	Covenant Singers	Choir Room
6:00 pm	Advent Feast	CC

Tuesday, December 10

9:15 am	Morning Prayers	Chapel
9:45 am	Staff Meeting	Parker Room
10:00 am	Enneagram Class	Parlor
7:00 pm	Enneagram Class	CE/Room 207
7:00 pm	Session	JH

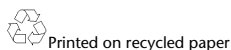
Wednesday, December 11

4:00 pm	Sojourn with the Psalms	Parlor
5:00 pm	Children's Bell Choir	Moot Arts Room
5:30 pm	Qabats	CC
5:30 pm	Junior Choir Rehearsal	Moot Arts Room
6:45 pm	Glorious Voices	Moot Arts Room
7:15 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room

Thursday, December 12

9:30 am	Food Cupboard	CC
10:45 am	Celebration Ringers	Parker Room

4 Meigs Street, Rochester, NY 14607-2013



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FAX (585) 271-6910

WEBSITE: www.thirdpresbyterian.org