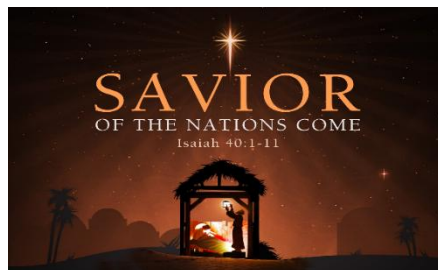




1175 BIRNEY LANE
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PRaise ABLAZE

DECEMBER 14, 2025 • 11 AM • 3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT
SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS TO COME -3- HARK THE GLAD SOUND

Welcome! We're excited you're here. In our service, we gather before Almighty God to offer Him our worship and praise. We come together to be strengthened through the study of God's Word and empowered to live as His witnesses.

Families, if you brought your children with you today, we want you to know that the spiritual well-being of your child is very important to us. Many families wish to teach and encourage their younger child(ren) to be in church and get what they can out of it. If you feel that you need to take your child out for whatever reason; a small area is set up in the atrium for children with "wiggles"; and a restroom with a baby changing station is located by the rear parking lot entrance to your left as you exit the atrium doors of the Multi-Ministry Center (MMC). **Guests**, we welcome you. If you will, please help us to get to know you by filling out the *Guest* side of the *Welcome Card* found in the pews/chair backs and place it in the offering baskets. **Holy Communion** questions, please see purple sheets on *Info Table*.

As We Gather: Isaiah anticipates that the people in Babylonian exile will miss his Gospel message in Isaiah 40:1–5. He signals his disappointment through the sudden shift from the divine glory, witnessed by all flesh (Isaiah 40:5), to the pathos of human transience in Isaiah 40:6–8a where "grass" is used to describe people four times. The only sure source of joy and life is God's Word which endures forever (Isaiah 40:8b).

A HUGE "Thank you" to those that served to make worship happen today...

Message Rev. Jason Hoerth
Children's Message Chris Graves, DCE
Intern Deaconess Julia Witt
Cont. Worship Ldr. Dyann Cooper

Acolyte..... Miles Esche
Reader Joy Schwartz
Elder Kevin O'Ferrell
Trustee Bill Miller
Technology Justin O'Grady

+++

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome

Opening Worship / Video

"Come and See, Joy" – Skit Guys
"House of the Lord"
"Light of the World"

Call to Worship

Lighting of Advent Wreath/ Confession and Absolution

Children's Message

God's Word *(see opposite or screens)* *Isaiah 40:1-11 (read 6-8 together)*
2 Corinthians 1:15-24
Mathew 24:32-44

(Children excused for Children's Church.)

Offering *(Thanks for your support of God's mission here.)*

Today's Message

(Children return from Children's Church.)

What We Believe *Second Article of the Apostles' Creed and Meaning*

Prayers & Lord's Prayer

Words of Our Lord/ Reception/Song

"Noel"

Blessing / Song

"The Joy of the Lord"

Dismissal

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OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 40:1-11

(The highlighted section is read together.) (Comfort Given to God's People.)

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." ⁶A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" ¹⁰Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

EPISTLE

2 Corinthians 1:15-24

(All the promises of God find their "yes" in Jesus.)

¹⁵Because I was sure of this, I wanted to come to you first, so that you might have a second experience of grace. ¹⁶I wanted to visit you on my way to Macedonia, and to come back to you from Macedonia and have you send me on my way to Judea. ¹⁷Was I vacillating when I wanted to do this? Do I make my plans according to the flesh, ready to say "Yes, yes" and "No, no" at the same time? ¹⁸As surely as God is faithful, our word to you has not been Yes and No. ¹⁹For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not Yes and No, but in him it is always Yes. ²⁰For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory. ²¹And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, ²²and who

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EPISTLE (cont.)

2 Corinthians 1:15-24

has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.²³ But I call God to witness against me—it was to spare you that I refrained from coming again to Corinth.²⁴ Not that we lord it over your faith, but we work with you for your joy, for you stand firm in your faith.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 24:32-44

(The lesson of the fig tree.)

³² “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near.³³ So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates.³⁴ Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.³⁵ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.³⁶ “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.³⁷ For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark,³⁹ and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.⁴⁰ Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left.⁴¹ Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left.⁴² Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.⁴³ But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into.⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.



Acknowledgments

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