

**Worship Leaders:** Marilyn Peters Kliewer, Pamela Obonde, Karen Schellenberg

**Speaker:** Jeff Friesen

**Music:** Emily Rempel, Rachel Klassen Huebner

**Candle Lighters:** Heidi, Emma, Vanessa and Mark Wiehler

**Technicians:** TBA

*✿ Third Sunday of Advent ✿*

*Child Blessing ~ On the Road to Restoration*

**GATHERING**

Welcome and Introduction

Call to Worship (based on Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11)

**We come to worship Christ**

Who proclaims good news to the poor,  
binds up the broken-hearted,  
frees the prisoner  
and comforts those who mourn.

**We come to worship Christ**

Who bestows a crown of beauty instead of ashes,  
the oil of joy Instead of mourning,  
and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

**We come to worship Christ**

Who rebuilds ancient ruins  
and restores broken places.

— *written by Phil Whyte, Holy City Planning Group, and posted  
on the Church of Scotland's [Starters for Sunday](#) website.*

Hymn

Lighting of the Advent Candle (based on Psalm 126)

**Reader 1:** We light a candle for restoration.

**Reader 2:** Restore our fortunes, O Lord,  
like the watercourses in the Negeb.

**All:** *Restore us, O Lord.*

**Reader 1:** We light a candle for healing.

**Reader 2:** May those who sow in tears  
reap with shouts of joy.

**All:** *Heal us, our God.*

**Reader 1:** We light a candle for rejuvenation.

**Reader 2:** Then our mouth was filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy.

**All:** *Revive us, loving God.*

**Reader 1:** We light a candle to wait upon the work of the Lord.

**Reader 2:** Then it was said among the nations,  
“The Lord has done great things for them.”

**All:** *Do your work, Jesus Christ.*

*Candle is lit*

Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance

### **CHILD BLESSING**

Ava May Friesen (parents Gina and Josh Friesen)

Nora Dot Wiebe Driedger (parents Alisa Wiebe and Bucky Driedger)

Congregational Response – HWB 791

You have offered your child  
to the strong and tender providence of God.  
We rejoice with you and give thanks  
for the gift of your child.  
We promise, with humility and seriousness,  
to share in your child’s nurture and well-being.  
We will support, by our example and words,  
your efforts to provide a loving and caring home,  
where trust in God grows and Christ’s way is chosen.  
Our prayer will be with you and for you.  
May our shared life and witness  
help make your task both joyful and fruitful.

Children’s Time with Ava and Nora

### **HEARING THE WORD**

Gospel Reader’s Theatre: John 1:6-8,19-28

Hymn

Scripture Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11, John 1:6-8,19-28

Sermon: "Retaking the Present"

### **RESPONDING**

Hymn

Offering

Prayers of the Week

### **SENDING**

Announcements

Hymn

Benediction