

The People That in Darkness Sat

Old Orchard Church
Third Sunday of Advent
December 15, 2013—10:15 to 11:50 a.m.

See print copy for song.



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We celebrate the Lord's Supper weekly—and in a circle, at the end of worship. A word of direction is given, and with this everyone stands and moves to the walls. The cup is passed in two forms: in a chalice and then in small individual cups. You are free to choose.

And as this is the Supper of the Lord Christ, please listen to the instructions we give as to what qualifies a visitor to participate. **But whether you intend to take communion or not, please join us in the circle.**

Cover art: Pen and brush drawing. Rembrandt (c. 1650)

Song Credit: public domain

God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him.

—1 Cor. 1:27-29 (NIV)—

Celebrating The Three Comings of Jesus Christ His "Third" Coming: In the Judgment

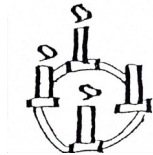
There are three comings of our Lord:

**The first in the flesh.
The second in the soul.
The third in the judgment.**

**The first coming was humble and hidden;
The second is mysterious and full of love.
The third will be majestic and terrible.**

**In his first, a lamb;
In his third, a lion;
In the one between the two,
The tenderest of friends.**

Peter of Blois, France, 12th century



Today's Scripture

Old Testament Promise: Isaiah 11:1-10

New Testament Fulfillment: Matthew 1

Mini-series

Autonomy in the City of Man or Purity in the Kingdom of God

Today's Sermon

"The Scandal of Messiah's Family"

Matthew 1

Ron Lutjens, lead pastor, preaching

Mary and Joseph —anonymous dialogue poem from Syria

(circa 5th-6th century A.D.)

An angel brought a greeting of peace and gave it
to the daughter of poor parents, filling her with wealth;
she received a conception that astonishes everyone, treating it in wonder.

In her womb was the child who fashions all,
in her breasts was the milk which astonishes all.
Her virginity was sealed, yet her womb was full;
she was pregnant with child, but the secret was hidden.

Joseph was dumfounded at Mary,
seeing her pregnancy of which he knew nothing.
He began to chide and reproach her, saying, Listen, young girl;

JOSEPH: Reveal to me the secret of what has happened to you;
it is most shocking, what you speak of:
who has led you astray, virgin, and snatched your wealth, chaste girl?

MARY: I will reveal to you how it happened, says Mary, So listen, Joseph.
A man of fire came down to me, he gave me a greeting-and this took place....

JOSEPH: Weighty is the matter you speak of, and I am afraid at what you say.
All the more do I want to run away from you, being so distraught.

MARY: There will be a great commotion concerning me,
and foolish people will hassle me; I shall be accounted an adulteress,
and if my Son does not look after me I shall be torn to pieces....

Mary's Lord saw her truthfulness, and became a witness to her in her plight;
He motioned to a ministering angel who came down
and confirmed the young woman's words.

Joseph slept, and the angel arrived,
revealing to him how the mystery had taken place.
Joseph rose up early and knelt before Mary, full of wonder, who had not lied.

The upright man in wonder at the young woman, honoured the virgin greatly.
Thanks be to the Son who shone forth from her,
who delivered both worlds at His birth.