

**December 17, 2023**  
**Third Sunday in Advent**

**Watchword for the Week** – May the God of peace sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thessalonians 5:23

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**Welcome** to our service of worship on this third Sunday of Advent - a four-week season of the church year devoted to preparing for the coming of Christ. Today, we light the third candle in our Advent Wreath. This candle is sometimes referred to as the Shepherd Candle or the Candle of Joy. It reminds us that the joyous news of Jesus' birth was first brought to shepherds watching over their flock in the hills of Bethlehem (Luke 2:8-20). More importantly, it reminds us that the true and lasting joy comes only through a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. May that joy be yours today and forever.

**If you are visiting with us today** we are especially glad you're here. Please take a moment to add your name, address and phone number to the blue Friendship Register as it is passed down the pew. We consider you an honored guest and hope you will return and worship with us often in the weeks to come. If you are looking for a church home – a place where you can share Christian fellowship, learn, serve and grow as a follower of Jesus – we would love to talk to you about joining the Friedberg church family.

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**Prelude**                      *Of the Father's Love Begotten*                      Douglas

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Hymn**                      *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You*                      (Burg) # 271  
(Children ages 4-2<sup>nd</sup> grade may leave for Children's Church)

**Joys and Concerns**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Hymn**                      Hark! The Herald Angels Sing                      (Burg) # 277

**Giving to God Our Tithes and Offering**

Prayer  
Offertory                      *Meekness and Majesty*                      Arr. Nitz  
Doxology                      *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*                      (Blue) # 817

**Reception of New Members**                      (Blue) p. 170  
Through Reaffirmation of Faith                      p. 173  
Through Transfer of Membership                      p. 174  
Hymn of Reception                      p. 174

**Holy Scripture**                      1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

**Sermon**                      "Living the Joy of Christmas"

**Hymn**                      *Joy to the World!*                      (Burg) # 270

**Benediction**

**Postlude**                      *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*                      Calkin

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**The Advent Wreath** is placed in the sanctuary in memory of Evva Hanes.

**The Poinsettias** in the sanctuary were given by David and Valerie Burchette in celebration of their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on December 24.

**The candles in the windows** in the sanctuary are donated by Annie Rowe and her family in memory of Ralph Rowe.

**The rosebud is in celebration** of the birth of Olivia Leigh Faircloth born on December 2, 2023, to Michael and Elizabeth Faircloth. Her grandparents are Mike and Sarah Faircloth.

**This week in Friedberg's History:** On December 19, 1771, the name "Friedberg" was proposed to the congregation and was approved.

**Christmas Post Office** – The boxes are available (in alphabetical order) in the hallway between the Parlor and Discovery classroom. Your Christmas cards may be placed in these boxes for pickup by the church members.

**The 2024 Flower Calendar** for sanctuary flowers is posted on the bulletin board behind the church office (across from the nursery). Please sign up if you would like to provide flowers in the sanctuary for our worship service.

**All parents** who have a child in children's church will be required to physically come down to the Children's Center on the first floor of the Family Life Center and sign their child out before they are released at the end of worship.

**250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Church Directory** – There are still opportunities to have pictures taken for the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Church Directory. Please make plans to have a picture taken on the following Sundays- December 17, 24, and 31. Family and Individual photos will be taken before Sunday School from 9:00 am to 9:45 am and following the worship service. All photos will be taken in the Family Life Center. This directory is being produced internally so there is no cost to have your photo taken and included in the directory. Since this is our 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Directory, it is important that we have as many as possible of our members to be included in this directory. No appointments necessary, photos will be taken on a first-come first-serve basis.

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**Sunday, December 17**

9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
 11:00 a.m. Worship/Livestream in the Sanctuary  
 7:00 p.m. Band Prelude  
 7:30 p.m. Christmas Lovefeast and Candle Service

**Monday, December 18**

6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts  
 6:30 p.m. Friedberg White @ 1<sup>st</sup> Alliance  
 6:30 p.m. Friedberg Gray Basketball @ Faith  
 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts  
 7:30 p.m. Friedberg Middle School @ Faith

**Tuesday, December 19**

7:00 p.m. Elders Meeting.

**Wednesday, December 20**

7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, December 21**

7:30 p.m. Men's Basketball

**Sunday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)**

9:15 a.m. Band Prelude  
 9:25 a.m. Prayer Partners-Parlor  
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
 11:00 a.m. Worship/Singstunde  
 4:00 p.m. Band Prelude  
 4:30 p.m. Christmas Lovefeast and Candle Service

**FRIEDBERG MORAVIAN CHURCH PRAYER CONCERNS**

December 17, 2023

**MEMBERS**

William Boles	J.T. Hopkins	Kolton Pennell
Phil Carter	Debbie James	Mary Lou Pitts
Al Coleman	Larry Jarvis	Martha Plyler
Tim Conley	Robbie Joyce	Betty Sink
Brenda Dennis	Irv Keck	Clay Sink
Emily Essick	Yvonne Lemons	Bob & Judy Smith
Jerry Evans	Rebecca Mickey	Chris Snyder
Don Faust	Dan Nelson	Larry Snyder
Mike Hampton	Reba Payne	Jerry & Gail Tolley

**Family and Friends Prayer Concerns Submitted Since Last Sunday:**

Barbara Koonts, James and Amanda Newton

**MEMBERS AND RELATIVES IN MILITARY**

Dylan Bundy	Alex Kennedy	Jon Eric Spaar, Jr.
Dylan Coleman	Patrick Mickey	Ryan Spach
Ben Greeson	Daniel Randleman	Brandon Thompson
Jennifer Greenwood	Colton Scott	Aidan Wheeler
Dakota Holtzclaw		

**MISSIONARIES AND MINISTRIES RECEIVING  
FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM FRIEDBERG**

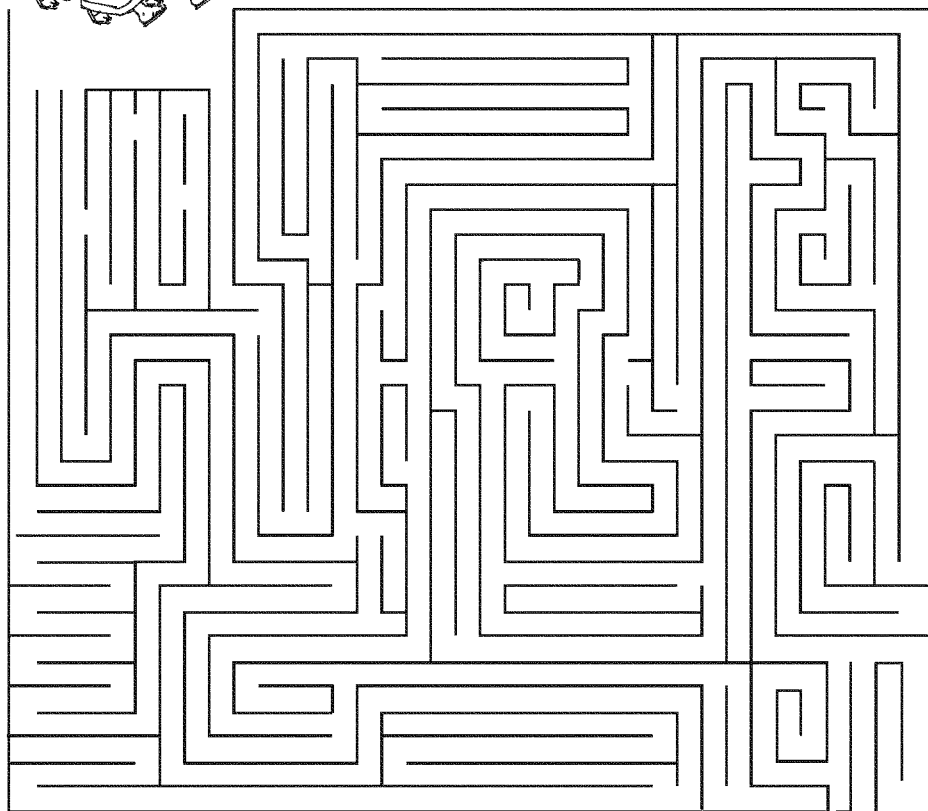
ARMF (Armando Rusindo Mission Foundation)  
 Safie Braima - Sierra Leone  
 Charlie & Vicki Brent – CRU (Campus Crusade), Texas A & M University  
 Michael and Brenda Brent – CRU (Campus Crusade), Croatia  
 Anna Stewart Faircloth – Young Life  
 Keith Graham - Cookies for Christ  
 Dusty and Christin Harrison – Intervarsity, Clemson University  
 Hoof and Paw Therapeutic Riding and Activity Center  
 Phil III & Eunice Raiford, Commission to Every Nation (CTEN) - Mexico  
 Michael and Ceci Tesh, Ray of Hope Orphanage – Kenya  
 Friends of Moravian Prison Ministry  
 Joey Yokely – Fellowship of Christian Athletes



Some people of Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to question John the Baptist while he was baptizing at Bethany, on the other side of the Jordan River.

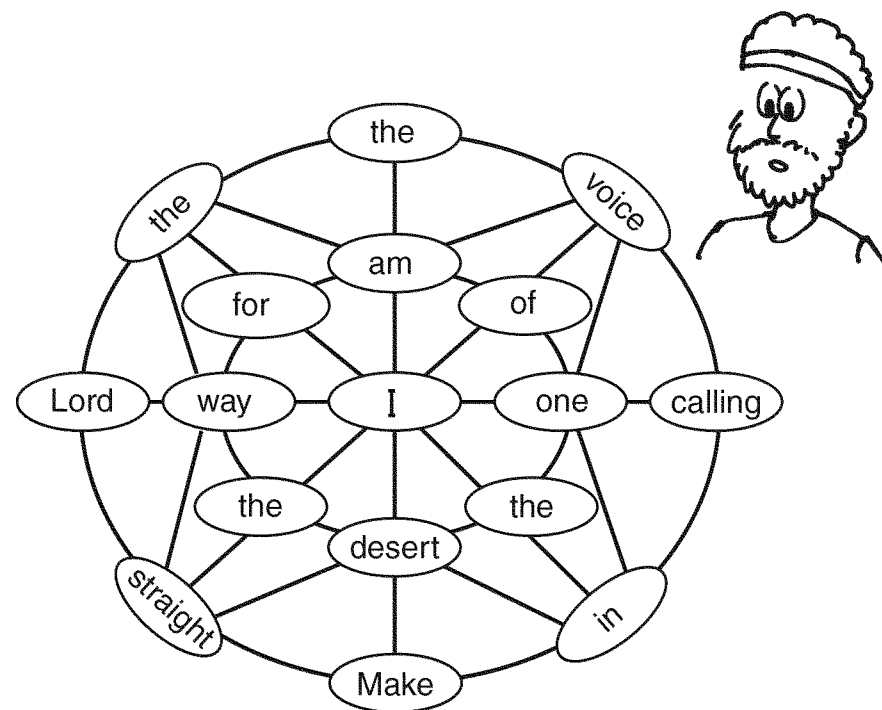


Help them on their way.



The Levites asked John who he was. John described himself using these words of the prophet Isaiah.

Start with the center word.  
Use the arrows to find the right words to fill in the blanks.  
Hint: Each word is used only once.



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