

ADVENT | *The season of Advent, a season of waiting, is designed to cultivate our awareness of God's actions – past, present, and future. In Advent we hear the prophecies of the Messiah's coming as addressed to us – people who wait for the second coming. In Advent we heighten our anticipation for the ultimate fulfillment of all Old Testament promises, when the wolf will lie down with the lamb, death will be swallowed up, and every tear will be wiped away.*

prelude

PAT DOLAN

As the music plays, please quietly prepare your heart and mind for worship, lifting your thoughts up from the cares of this world.

Wake, Awake for Night is Flying! – J.S. Bach/Reginal Gerig

The Night Will Soon Be Ending – Welsh tune/M. Rotermund

Now Tell Us, Gentle Mary, What Did Gabriel Say to Thee? – Traditional French/Cesar Franck

preparing our hearts

My lips will shout for joy, when I sing praises to you; my soul also, which you have redeemed.
And my tongue will talk of your righteous help all the day long.

– Psalm 71: 23-24a ESV

** call to worship

Leader: Who is this King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!

All: The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory!

Leader: Glory to God in the highest!

All: Peace on the earth among those with whom he is pleased!

– Based on Psalm 24:7-10 & Luke 2:14 ESV

Leader: They will call his name Immanuel.

All: Come, let us adore him.

** Please stand if you are able

ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth; *

** Chorus:*

Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing, yonder shines the infant light: *

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen his natal star: *

Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear; *

“Angels from the Realms of Glory,” Words: James Montgomery, Public Domain. Music: REGENT SQUARE
– Henry Smart, © Lorenz Publishing. CCLI #3022711, Song #2596222.

****prayer of invocation**

Leader: Our souls magnify the Lord, and our spirits rejoice in God our Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servants. For he who is mighty has done great things for us, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. Let us come before you, Gracious Father, according to the hope that is in Jesus Christ, the Son you sent for our sake, and in the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

– Based on Luke 1:46-50

advent reading & candle lighting

LARRY AND KATHY LORIMOR

The candle color for the third week of Advent is pink, or rose, representing joy or rejoicing. It reveals a shift in the season away from repentance and toward celebration. The third candle is named the Shepherd Candle or Candle of Joy.

The Readings | Jeremiah 23:5-6 and Isaiah 35:1-4_{ESV}

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

** hymn of praise

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King:
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by; born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Words: Charles Wesley, Music: Felix Mendelssohn. Public Domain.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

Leader: “Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.”

– Isaiah 55:6-7 ESV

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

All: **Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

Please reflect and silently confess your sins.

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL **

All: **O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes, on Sinai’s height,
In ancient times didst give the law, in cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan’s tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save, and give them victory o’er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Latin hymn. Translated by John Mason Neale, Music: Thomas Helmore. Public Domain.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE **

Leader: Through [our Lord Jesus Christ] we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

– Romans 5:2_{ESV}

All: Thanks be to God!

** hymn of gratitude

THE FIRST NOEL

The first Noel the angel did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep. *

** Refrain:*

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.

For all to see there was a star
Shining in the east, beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night. *

And by the light of that same star
The wise men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went. *

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord
Who hath made heav'n and earth of naught,
And with his blood mankind hath bought. *

Words & Music: Traditional English Carol. Public Domain.

scripture reading

Leader: Micah 5:1-5
This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

prayer

An officer of the church prays for the world, nation, community, and church.

Leader: All these mercies we ask in the name of Jesus, who prayed saying,

**All: Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be your name;
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors,
Do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, Amen.**

missions report

Keith and Paige Kirsch recently visited CPC Missionaries Marcus and Heather Rudd in Reynosa, Mexico, and will provide a brief report on their experience and how our church can support the Rudds.

Leader: Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.” In a world filled with trouble, let us encourage one another to look to the one who has overcome the world. May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

While your children are welcome and encouraged to worship with you, at this time they can be dismissed for an age-appropriate worship for ages 3-K.

If you would like to hear more about CPC or would like to let us know of a prayer need, please include your contact information or prayer request in the welcome pad when it comes around to you.

When instructed, greet those around you, saying, “The peace of Christ be with you.” When the music begins, please be seated and prepare yourself for the hearing of God’s Word.

sermon

Series | “Rejoice: In Advent, We Wait, Remember, and Hope”

WHIT ANDERSON

Sermon | “Nothing Is Impossible With God”

December 16, 2018

Luke 1:26-38 ^{ESV} | 26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” 29 But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. 30 And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

34 And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

35 And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy – the Son of God. 36 And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God.” 38 And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

sermon notes

1. An Unusual Birth Announcement & An Unlikely Mother

2. The Power of the Most High & A Holy Child

Leader: Christian, do you believe and trust in God the Father, who because of his great love did send his only begotten Son to take on flesh in union with mankind?

All: We believe and trust in him.

Leader: Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who graciously represented mankind before the Father in perfect obedience and in perfect atonement, reconciling us to God?

All: We believe and trust in him.

Leader: Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who mercifully breathes life into those dead in sin, that they might know the Father and believe the Son unto salvation.

All: We believe and trust in him.

Leader: This is the faith of the Church.

All: This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Minister: The Lord be with you.

All: **And with your spirit.**

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Minister: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

All: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Minister: It is very good and right, our duty and privilege, to at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify your glorious Name; evermore praising you, and singing,

All: **(singing Gloria Patri)**

Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the 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.

WELCOME TO HIS TABLE

The Lord's Supper is a family meal for Christians – a time when we delight in Christ and in the good news that His work alone has made us right with God. All baptized Christians who trust in Christ alone as their Savior, belong to a church that embraces the gospel, and seek strength to live more faithfully to Christ are invited to participate. If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, please use this time to meditate on the following prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please remain seated for communion. As a symbol of our unity in Christ, wait until everyone has been served the elements, and we will all partake together. Once you are finished with your cup, please pass it to the inside aisles and the ushers will retrieve them.

If you have a gluten allergy, there are gluten-free wafers available in the center of the bread trays. During the celebration of communion, we will sing the printed hymns.

NOTE TO PARENTS: To receive communion, a child must have been baptized, publicly professed their faith in Christ, and been formally received as a communing member by the elders of this church or the governing body of the church to which you belong. We look forward to welcoming your children to the table when they come to this point and ask that you speak to the pastor when you feel your child is ready to begin the process of becoming a communing member.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

– Matthew 26:26-29 ESV

Minister: Let us pray.

All: **Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and the cup, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, that we may be one with all who share this feast, united in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ’s body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in this world.**

Minister: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded, for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood;
Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood.
He will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of Light descendeth from the realms of endless day,
That the powers of hell may vanish, as the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph; cherubim, with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry:
“Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord Most High!”

Words: Liturgy of St. James; trans. by Gerard Moultrie. Music: Picardy, Traditional French carol melody.
Public Domain.

SILENT NIGHT

Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child! Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace! Sleep in heavenly peace!

Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing, "Alleluia!";
Christ, the Savior is born! Christ, the Savior is born!

Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light,
Radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth! Jesus, Lord, at your birth!

Silent night! Holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing, "Alleluia" to our King;
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Words: Joseph Mohr, Music: Franz Gruber, Public Domain.

JOY TO THE WORLD

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing.
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns: let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains, repeat the sounding joy.
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found.
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love.
And wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

Words: Isaac Watts, Music: George Frederick Handel, Arr: Lowell Mason. Public Domain..

announcements

Please note the announcements found on Pages 17-20 of your bulletin.

**** benediction**

Minister: Peace on the earth!

All: And good will to mankind!

Minister: May the peace of God the Father, the grace of Christ the Son, and the hope of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.