

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

EMILY KIRKPATRICK & KATHY LORIMOR

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

Mary, Did You Know? – Lowry, Green / Arr. Courtney

Away in a Manger – McFarland / Murray / Kirkpatrick / Arr. Kirkland

O Holy Night – Adam / Arr. Hayes

Gesu Bambino – Yon / Arr. Everson

preparing our hearts

For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth.

– Job 19:25_{ESV}

“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people...”

– Luke 1:68_{ESV}

Leader: Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

All: He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

Leader: He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength.

All: They who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength;

Leader: They shall mount up with wings like eagles;

All: They shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

– From Isaiah 40:28-31 ESV

O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem!
Come and behold him, born the King of angels! *

** Chorus:*

O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;

O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! *

Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger, we would embrace Thee, with love and awe;
Who would not love Thee, loving us so dearly? *

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be all glory given!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! *

Words and Music: John Francis Wade. Public Domain.

** prayer of invocation

Leader: Lord God, our eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel. Shine in our midst this morning, Heavenly Father, and fix our eyes to Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, by the strength and encouragement of your Holy Spirit, who is our secure deposit for what is yet to come. For the sake of your Son, Christ Jesus, we pray. Amen.

– Based on Luke 2:30-32

advent reading & candle lighting

BILL AND AMY PEEK

The fourth Advent Candle color is purple, standing for the sovereignty of Christ, and demonstrating the reception of the coming King. It is called the Angel Candle or the Candle of Love.

The Readings | Zephaniah 3:14-17 and James 5:7-9,11_{ESV}

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains. *

** Chorus:*

Glo-ria in excelsis Deo.

Glo-ria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heavenly song? *

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King. *

Words: Traditional French carol, trans.: James Chadwick. Music: French carol melody,
arr.: Edward Shippen Barnes. Public Domain.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

Leader: When Jesus was born of the virgin Mary, he became like us in all things but sin. May we who have been reborn in him be free from our sinful ways.

– From *The Worship Sourcebook*

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

All: O God, in the beginning you spoke, and creation was born, the object of your loving care. In the fullness of time you spoke, and the Word became flesh, Jesus, gift of your love. We wonder at the miracle of creation; we stand in awe before the mystery of the incarnation. Forgive us earthbound creatures, feeble in faith, empty of hope, lacking in love. This year let the miracle and mystery of Christmas happen for us again. We wait upon you with ready hearts, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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, 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. *

O come, thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. *

O come, thou Key of David, come and open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.*

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

ASSURANCE OF GRACE **

Leader: When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.

– Galatians 4:4-5 NRSV

All: **Thanks be to God!**

musical response

JOEL McDOW, ACCOMPANIED BY PAT DOLAN

While this musical response is sung, reflect on its lyrics, prayerfully contemplating the beauty of God's plan of redemption and the wonder that all God's promises find their "yes" and "amen" in Jesus our Savior.

“COMFORT YE MY PEOPLE” & “EV'RY VALLEY SHALL BE EXALTED” FROM HANDEL'S *MESSIAH*

*Comfort ye, comfort ye, my people, saith your God.
Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her,
That her warfare is accomplished,
That her iniquity is pardoned.
The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness
Prepare ye the way of the Lord.
Make straight in the desert a highway for Our God
Ev'ry valley shall be exalted, and ev'ry moutain and hill made low;
the crooked straight and the rough places plain.*

Leader: Isaiah 9:2-7
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.**

** passing the peace

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.

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

Sermon | “Mary’s Song”

December 23, 2018

Luke 1:39-56 ^{ESV} | 39 In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, 40 and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41 And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, 42 and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! 43 And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. 45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

46 And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

48 for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

49 for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

50 And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

51 He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

52 he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;

53 he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

54 He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

55 as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

56 And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

**** affirmation of faith**

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.

WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE

We three kings of Orient are;
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star. *

** Chorus:*

O star of wonder, star of light,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a king on Bethlehem's plain;
Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign. *

Frankincense to offer have I:
Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, all men raising,
Worship Him, God on high. *

Myrrh is mine: it's bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom –
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb. *

Glorious now behold Him arise:
King and God and Sacrifice;
Alleluia, alleluia!
Earth to heaven replies. *

Words and Music. John H. Hopkins, Jr. Public Domain.

WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste! Haste! to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail! Hail! the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him;
The King of Kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy! Joy! for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.

Words: William Chatterton Dix, Music: Greensleeves, 16th Century English melody. Public Domain.

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.

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.