



The Worship of God

December 20, 2020

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Eleven O'Clock

COME, CHRISTMAS . . .

PREPARATION AND PRAISE

PRELUDE: O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

WORDS OF WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Jessica, Herb, and Connor Evans

CHORAL INTROIT: "O Come, O Come, Immanuel

arr. Alice Parker/Robert Shaw

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 Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here; 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 heav'nly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.

THE INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER

Jody Wright

LESSONS AND CAROLS

THE FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 40:1-5

Bill Bulluck

Isaiah proclaims comfort and the coming of the Lord.

RECITATIVE AND AIR from *Messiah*

G.F. Handel

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. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low, the crooked straight and the rough places plain.
Daniel Shirley, soloist

THE SECOND LESSON: Isaiah 60:1-3, 19-20

Sammie Crumley

The prophet calls us to rejoice at the coming of the Lord.

ANTHEM: "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

Chad Fothergill

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; ponder nothing earthly minded for with blessing in his hand, Christ our Lord 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 pow'rs 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, Alleluya, Alleluya, Alleluya Lord most high. Amen.

THE THIRD LESSON: Isaiah 11:1-9

Amy Shortt

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

Elizabeth Edwards

THE FOURTH LESSON: Luke 1:26-38

Reynolds Cobb

The angel Gabriel hails the Blessed Virgin Mary.

DUET: "Breath of Heaven (Mary's Song)" Chris Eaton and Amy Grant/arr. Lloyd Larson
I have traveled many moonless nights, cold and weary with a babe inside and I wonder what I've done. Holy Father, you have come and chosen me now to carry your Son. I am waiting in a silent prayer; I am frightened by the load I bear. In a world as cold as stone must I walk this path alone? Be with me now. *Breath of Heaven, hold me together, be forever near me, Breath of Heaven. Breath of Heaven, lighten my darkness, pour over me your holiness, for you are holy, Breath of Heaven.* Do you wonder as you watch my face, if a wiser one should have had my place? But I offer all I am for the mercy of your plan. Help me be strong, help me be, help me.
Sarah Summers and Erin Dugai, soloists

THE FIFTH LESSON: Matthew 1:18-25 Tim Ozment
Jesus' birth is revealed to Joseph in a dream.

HOMILY: "Come, Peace . . ." Dr. Wright

ANTHEM: "Beautiful City" from *Godspell* Stephen Schwartz
Out of the ruins and rubble, out of the smoke, out of our night of struggle, can we see a ray of hope? One pale thin ray reaching for the day. *We can build a beautiful city, yes, we can, yes, we can. We can build a beautiful city, not a city of angels, but we can build a city of man.* We may not reach the ending, but we can start slowly but truly mending, brick by brick, heart by heart. Now, maybe now, we start learning how. When your trust is all but shattered, when your faith is all but killed, you can give up, bitter and battered, or you can slowly start to build!
Daniel Shirley, soloist

THE SIXTH LESSON: Luke 2:1-14 Karla Willcox
Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

ANTHEM: "Veiled in Darkness" Glenn L. Rudolph
Veiled in darkness Judah lay, waiting for the promised day, while across the shadowy night streamed a flood of glorious light, heav'ly voices chanting then, "Peace on earth, good-will to men." Still the earth in darkness lies, up from death's dark vale arise voices of a world in grief, prayers of men who seek relief; now our darkness pierce again, "Peace on earth, good-will to men." Light of light, we humbly pray, shine upon thy world today; break the gloom of our dark night, fill our souls with love and light, send thy blessed word again, "Peace on earth, good-will to men." *Douglas Letel Rights*

THE SEVENTH LESSON: Luke 2:15-20 Bo Browder
The shepherds go to the manger.

CAROL: "Angels We Have Heard on High" GLORIA
Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be, Which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Come to Bethlehem and see Christ, who comes in lowly birth.
Come, adore on bended knee Jesus, joy of heav'n and earth.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
See within a manger laid, Christ, whom choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

THE EIGHTH LESSON: Matthew 2:1-12 Elizabeth Edwards
The Wise Men are led by the star to Jesus.

CAROL: "Away in a Manger"

CRADLE SONG

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh.
Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

THE NINTH LESSON: John 1:1-14

Jody Wright

John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

CAROL: "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

ADESTE FIDELES

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; 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, Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above:
"Glory to God, all glory in the highest!" O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!
Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe that when angry words inflict bruised feelings,
When broken promises result in broken hearts,
And when pride blocks reconciliation,
Love comes home at Christmas.
We believe that when poor choices yield unpleasant results,
When failure and defeat shadow our every move,
And when the future appears bleak and unkind,
Hope comes home at Christmas.
We believe that when sorrow absorbs all of the happiness from life,
When living is a chore with no pleasant reward,
And when laughter is a gift we have all but forgotten,
Joy comes home at Christmas.
We believe that when discord becomes the melody of our days,
When anxiety stalks us, stealing our sleep at night,
And when war is the pattern of all human interaction,
Peace comes home at Christmas.
We believe that when we no longer know who we are,
When we do not feel at home in familiar places,
And when our spirits cry out to God for help,
Christ comes home at Christmas. Thanks be to God! Amen!

POSTLUDE: Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

J.S. Bach

THE MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Jody C. Wright
Senior Minister

Elizabeth Edwards
Associate Minister

Amy Shortt
Minister of Music

Sarah Summers
Soprano

Diana Kirkpatrick
Organist

Erin Dugai
Alto

Daniel Shirley
Tenor

Jackson Baldwin
Baritone/Bass