

8:30 a.m. ~ Sunday, December 18th

arr. Janet Linker

Organ

WELCOME & RELATIONSHIPS of PEACE

CALL to WORSHIP from Genesis 12:1-3

- P: Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.
- C: In Advent Love we gather and worship trustingly, assured that Christ is coming to set His people free.
- P: And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.
- C: In Advent Love we gather and worship trustingly, assured that Christ is coming to set His people free.
- P: I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."
- C: In Advent Love we gather and worship trustingly, assured that Christ is coming to set His people free.

OPENING HYMN "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

OPENING LITURGY

- P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen.
- P: Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart.
- C: The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.
- P: "Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak.
- C: The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save;
- P: He will rejoice over you with gladness; He will quiet you by His love;
- C: He will exult over you with loud singing.

- P: I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes," says the LORD.
- C: We worship You, O Lord!
- P: Let us pray. O Lord, let the lighting of these candles signify that You are the light that shines in all the darkness of our lives. As we wait, watch, hope, and pray, guide us all to reflect Your light and let it shine; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C: Amen.
- P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

[Moment of silent confession]

- P: We confess to You, O Lord, that we are captive to sin in thought, word, and deed. We have neglected to reflect Your love at home, school, and work. We have let discord and conflict drown out the peace that You have given us in Christ. We have failed to thank You for Your great love in our private prayers and with our outward words and actions.
- C: Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.
- P: Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
- C: According to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!

RESPONSE "Kyrie for the Four Sundays in Advent"

Forgive us, Lord, for times when love was lost,
And moments when we never thought to care,
For times when we destroy and subdue
The Word that brings Your people close to You.
Forgive, forgive, forgive us all our sins
And help us love so newness can begin.

- P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen.

RESPONSE "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HOLY GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 1:1-17 [ESV]

"The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham." To summarize, the genealogy descends from Abraham to David, from David to Jeconiah (at the time of the exile), and from Jeconiah to "Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ."

So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ!

STATEMENT of FAITH based on John 1 & 3:16

- R: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.
- C: All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made.
- R: In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.
- C: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
- R: He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him.
- C: He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him.
- R: But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God,
- C: Who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.
- R: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.
- C: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

SERMON HYMN "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

SERMON "OUT OF DIVISION COMES LOVE"

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"This Is Love"

Wesley, Prichard, Baloche, & Scott

Amber Heady, soloist

PRAYERS of the CHURCH

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE PREFACE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS

WORDS of INSTITUTION

THE PEACE P: The peace of the Lord be with you C: And also with you.	ı always.	
AGNUS DEI		
DISTRIBUTION MUSIC "Still, Still, Still"	Organ	arr. Jeffrey Blersch
POST-COMMUNION BLESSING		
ANNOUNCEMENTS		
BENEDICTION		
NUNC DIMITTIS		
POSTLUDE "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"	Organ	arr. Donald Hustad



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