

<https://youtu.be/d60Uu1toyxs>

Order of Worship, First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, December 20, 2020

4th Sunday of Advent

Announcements

Rev. Stephanie Ells

Prelude

“The First Nowell”

arr. Curry

For Prayer and Reflection:

Micah 5:2

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Confirmand Thomas Blair & Mentor Deb Stant

Call to Worship

Come, continue on the journey. It is not far now.

But where are we going?

God is welcoming us to God’s kingdom.

Can we see it from here?

We see it in the faces of those who know of God’s love.

Will that same love be given to us?

It already has been given, and his name is Jesus!

He is God’s beloved Son, our Light and Hope.

Quickly, let us journey toward his light.

Opening Prayer

****Hymns of Praise***

Hymn # 159

“The King of Glory Comes” vv. 1, 4

Promised One

Refrain: The King of glory comes, the nation rejoices.

Open the gates before him, lift up your voices.

Who is the King of glory: what shall we call him?

He is Emmanuel, the promised of ages. (Refrain)

He conquered sin and death; he truly has risen,

And he will share with us his heavenly vision. (Refrain)

Hymn #177

“Jesus, Name Above All Names”

Hearn

Jesus, name above all names,

Beautiful Savior, Glorious Lord.

Emmanuel, God is with us,

Blessed Redeemer, Living Word.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

O Lord God, as we prepare our hearts to receive the One whom you are sending, forgive us for all the times we have failed to see you in our midst, for all the times we have doubted your presence, and for all the times we have kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season, neglecting to share the good news of the Gospel with others. Forgive us, Lord, and free us to live our lives for you, rejoicing in your abiding presence.

Silent Confession (Here let each worshiper offer silent, personal prayers of confession)

Congregational Response

(tune: "O Little Town of Bethlehem")

**"O Holy Child of Bethlehem! Descend to us we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today."**

Declaration of Forgiveness

**Gloria Patri #734*

"Glory Be to the Father"

Greatorex

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Reading

Isaiah 9:6-7

Second Scripture Reading

Luke 2:1-7

Sermon

"Reflecting on the Nativity"***

Congregational refrain: Oh Jesus, Holy Babe, from heaven above,
You came to earth to be God's saving love.

**Hymn of Response #180*

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

St. Louis

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.

Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,

While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love,

O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,

And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!

So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.

No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,

Where meek souls will receive him still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

***Affirmation of Faith**

“The Apostles’ Creed”

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

***Sending Hymn #182**

“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;

Refrain: 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 heaven above;
Glory to God, all glory in the highest; (Refrain)

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

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

“Rejoice and Be Merry (Gallery Carol)”

arr. Kendall

**Those who are able, please stand*

***The play is loosely based on "Christmas Letters" written by Gail G. Martin ©1997 by Standard Publishing Co.*

Leaders in worship:

Liturgist: Rev. Stephanie Ells
Scripture Reader: Sandy Spencer
Preachers: Sunday School participants
Music Director & pianist: Kristen Eby
Special Music Director: Jill Klinebriel
Musicians: Alex Eby
Technical Directors: Bryan and Sara Blair

Lectionary Reading for December 27

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Psalm 148

Galatians 4:4-7

Luke 2:22-40

“The First Nowell”

Words/Music: English carol/Music;
arr. Curry

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“Christmas Letters”

Music: Traditional Carol/Words: Martin;
arr. Martin

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“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Words/Music Wade
© Public domain

“The King of Glory Comes”

Words: Jabusch/Music: Israeli folk song;
arr. Ferguson

Words © 1966, 1982 Willard F. Jabusch
Music Arr. © 1974 The Pilgrim Press
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“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Words: Brooks/Music: Redner
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“Rejoice and Be Merry (Gallery Carol)”

Music: English carol; arr. Kendall
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“Jesus, Name Above All Names”

Words/Music: Hearn
© 1974 Scripture in Song
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