

<https://youtu.be/5yiNo1KsnR4>

Order of Worship, First Presbyterian Church
Sunday, December 13, 2020
3rd Sunday of Advent

Announcements

Rev. Stephanie Ells

Prelude

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

arr. Wellman

For Prayer and Reflection:

God Almighty, Lord of Love, help us make our hearts ready to receive Jesus, our hope and our light. Amen.

Lighting of the Love Candle

The Klinebriel Family

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

**Hymn of Praise #168*

“Savior of the Nations, Come” vv. 1,3-5

Nun Komm, Der Heiden Heiland

Savior of the nations, come,
Show yourself the Virgin’s son.
Fill with wonder, all the earth,
That our God chose such a birth.

Christ laid down his majesty,
Passed thro’ dark Gethsemane;
Though he left his Father’s home,
Christ now sits on God’s own throne.

Christ in glory, intercede
For your creatures’ suffering need;
Let your resurrecting power
Soon complete the victory hour.

Praise to you, O Lord, we sing;
Praise to Christ, our newborn King!
With the Father, Spirit, one,

Let your lasting kingdom come.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of mercy, light, and love, we confess that we have not been people who are quick to pray. When an emergency befalls us, we turn to pleas and prayers which usually begin with the heart-wrenching cry, "Why?" Help us to remember that you are always ready to hear and respond to all our prayers. Remind us that even though we have often failed to witness to your love and live as people of compassion and faith, you love us unconditionally. Forgive our stubbornness and willfulness. Cleanse our souls and spirits and make us truly ready to receive your light. In Jesus' Name, we pray.

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 61:1-4, 8-11

Special Music

"Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor"

Houghton

Second Scripture Reading

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Sermon

"Testify to the Light of Love"

***Hymn of Response #248**

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

Houston

I want to walk as a child of the light;

I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world;

The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain: In him there is no darkness at all;

The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God:

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God;

I want to look at Jesus.

Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path,

And show me the way to the Father. (Refrain)

I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
We shall know the joy of Jesus. (Refrain)

***Affirmation of Faith**

“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 #161**

“People, Look East” vv. 1,3,4

Besançon

People, look east, the time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Guest, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,
One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Star, is on the way.

Angels announce with shouts of mirth
Him who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

“Wachet Auf”

arr. L. Smith

**Those who are able, please stand*

Leaders in worship:

Liturgist: Scott McCaw
Preacher: Rev. Stephanie Ells
Music Director & pianist: Kristen Eby
Special Music Director: Jill Klinebriel
Musicians: Alex Eby, John Eby, Linda Longfield
Technical Directors: Bryan and Sara Blair

Lectionary Reading for December 20

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”
Words: German carol/Music: Es Ist Ein
Ros; arr. Wellman
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“Savior of the Nations, Come”
Words: Ambrose of Milan, 4thc./Music:
Luther; tr. Seerveld
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“O Little Town of Bethlehem”
Words: Brooks/Music: Redner
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“Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All
Splendor”
Music: Houghton
© 1934 OMF International
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“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”
Words/Music: Thomerson
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“People, Look East”
Words: Farjeon/Music: French melody
Words © 1960 David Higham Assoc. Ltd.
Music arr. © 1928 Oxford Press
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“Wachet Auf”
Music: Nicolai; arr. L. Smith
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