

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

December 6, 2020

“Bethlehem . . . out of you will come a Ruler who will be the Shepherd”

Matthew 2:6

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

The Organ Prelude

Welcome

Introit

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Can you imagine?

People: The wolf lives with the lamb; the leopard rests with the goat.

Pastor: Can you imagine?

People: Knowledge of the Lord fills the land; righteousness reigns o’er all the earth.

Pastor: The Lord’s light shines on a weary world— illuminating possibility, beckoning us to hope.

People: With peace in our hearts, let us worship God!

ADVENT MEDITATION

Advent Candle Song (see insert)

PRAISE TO GOD

Hymn #131 “Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy One, Christ is coming; your kingdom is drawing near. We cannot remain unchanged. As we prepare the way for the Prince of Peace, help us abandon wayward wanderings and return to faithful paths. We have neglected to plead the case of the poor, and ignored the needs of the afflicted. We have denied our part in systems that oppress, and turned a blind eye toward injustice.

Renew our minds and transform our hearts, that our lives might bear the fruit of compassion and care. Baptize us with your Spirit, and claim us again for your holy work, until you come in glory. In Your holy name we pray. Amen

Silent Confession

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Hear the good news! Jesus Christ baptizes us with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

People: Friends, believe the Good News!

Unison: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Gloria Patri

(#623 Hymnal)

Children’s Story

GOD’S WORK IN PRAYER

Prayer Concerns

Pastor’s Prayer and Lord’s Prayer

Response

GOD’S WORD

Scripture: Mark 1:1-8

Sermon: “Prepare the Way”

Anthem: “”

Holy Communion

Hymn #135 “While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks”

GOD’S WORK AND WORSHIP IN GIVING

Announcements and Pew Registration

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Prayer

Hymn #141 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Benediction

Response

Postlude

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Advent Candle Song Verse Two

Light the Advent candle two;
Think of humble shepherds who
Filled with wonder at the sight
Of the child on Christmas night.

Chorus:

Candle, candle, burning bright,
Shining in the cold winter night;
Candle, candle, burning bright,
Fill our hearts with Christmas light.

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. I have taken an oath and confirmed it, that I will follow your righteous laws. I have suffered much; renew my life, O Lord, according to your word. Accept, O Lord, the willing praise of my mouth, and teach me your laws. Though I constantly take my life in my hands, I will not forget your law.”

God has given us his Holy Word to show us the way to salvation, but how often do we use it? How often do we even think about God’s will in our day to day lives? How often do we read the Bible? How often do we consider the Ten Commandments or the teachings of Christ?

It is much easier to follow the status quo than it is to follow the path that God would have us walk. How many times have we taken the easier way, ignoring God’s call?

Mary would have done that. She could have said, “No thanks” when the angel told her that she had been called to have God’s Son. It would have certainly been easier for her than explaining her doubts and the whispers and snickers that she would have to bear. She must have been confused and frightened, but she responded to God’s will with obedience. “Behold the handmaid of the Lord!” she said.

In Advent, we have the opportunity to rededicate ourselves to studying God’s Word, and following it in our daily lives. We have the chance to follow Mary’s example and say, “Behold the servant of the Lord.” The choice is ours. Will we tell God, “No thanks,” or will we let his Word guide us in the path of light?

Last Sunday we lit the first candle on our Advent wreath and remembered John the Baptist’s call to repentance. Today we light the Candle of Repentance once again, and then we light the Candle of Obedience. (Two candles are lit.)

Unison prayer:

Loving Father, you have given us your Holy Word to guide us on the path of salvation. Help us to follow your light and to be obedient to your will in our daily lives. We pray in the name of your Son, who, as an example to us, was obedient to your will even when it led him to a cross. Amen.