

OUR SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

December 20, 2020

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

The Organ Prelude

Welcome

Introit

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: My soul magnifies the Lord.

People: Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.

Pastor: The mighty one has done great things for us.

Unison: Holy is God's name!

* ADVENT MEDITATION:

Advent Candle Song (See Insert)

* PRAISE TO GOD

* Hymn #128 "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Heavenly Father, for all the times and all the ways we have resisted Your rule in our lives, Lord have mercy on us. For seeking our salvation through lesser things; for insisting on our own tired, broken ways instead of embracing Your life-giving way; Christ have mercy upon us. For our narrow vision of Your expansive love; for our stinginess with Your extravagant grace; Lord have mercy on us. Free us from our sin, loving God. Lead us in the new life You give us, that we may follow in the way of Jesus Christ. In His name we pray. Amen.

Silent Confession

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Hear the Good News! Mary has conceived a child by the Holy Spirit and He is to be named Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins.

People: Friends, believe the Good News!

Unison: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

* Gloria Patri

(#623 Hymnal)

GOD'S WORK IN PRAYER

Prayer Concerns

Pastor's Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Hymn #82 "O Come, Let Us Adore Him" v. 1

GOD'S WORK AND WORSHIP IN GIVING

Announcements and Pew Registration

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

* The Doxology

(#625 Hymnal)

* Offertory Prayer

GOD'S WORD

Scripture: Luke 2:1-20

(p.1590-91)

Children's Sermon

"Joshua's Christmas Story"

Hymn # 125 "Joy to the World" v.1

At the Manger

Hymn #157 "Away in a Manger" v. 1

The Shepherds

Hymn #135 "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks" v. 1

The Angel of the Lord

Hymn #133 "Hark! The Herald, Angels Sing" v. 1

The Wise Men

Hymn #166 "We Three Kings" v.1

A King for All

Hymn #147 "Silent Night"

* Benediction

* Postlude

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Advent Candle Song Verse Four

Light the Advent candle, four;
Think of joy for evermore;
Christ Child in a stable born,
Gift of love that Christmas morn.

Chorus:

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

Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist, lost his voice when he doubted, but praised God when his voice returned. “Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, “What then will this child become?” For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.”

“What will become of this child?” people asked one another. Clearly, this was no ordinary child, for “indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.” And what will become of us? Is not the hand of the Lord

with us, through our baptism and again and again in our prayer and in the worship at church? Has God not begun a great work in us, too?

Perhaps, like John the Baptist, we will proclaim the coming of the Savior in a voice of prophecy. Or like Mary and Joseph, our fidelity to the duties of daily life may testify to our faith in God. One thing is sure: as we embrace the Gospel and its message, we welcome Jesus into our hearts. Indeed, that is what we have been doing all Advent through our prayer together: Jesus came to Bethlehem long ago, Jesus is coming into hearts that welcome him right now, and Jesus will come again to establish the fullness of his kingdom on earth.

As we light the fourth candle of Advent, let us truly recognize that the love of the Lord is always nearer to us than we think. (Light candle.)

Unison Prayer:

Amazing God, You have given us much more than we could have ever imagined asking for. May your work in us lead others to You. In gratitude that the hand of the Lord has been upon us, let us join hearts and pray for peace on earth and good will toward men. Amen.