

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

December 13, 2020

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace" Luke 2:14

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

The Organ Prelude

Welcome

Introit:

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Say to those of a fearful heart: Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.

People: Behold! The glory of the Lord shines upon us!

Pastor: Say to those with weak hands and feeble knees: Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.

People: Behold! In splendor the Lord dwells among us!

Pastor: The barren lands burst into bloom; the desert erupts with delight. We join creation's song!

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

ADVENT MEDITATION

Advent Candle Song (see insert)

*PRAISE TO GOD

* Hymn #133 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Advent God, You enter into our weary world to lift up the lowly and fill the hungry, to establish equity throughout the earth. Yet, like perplexed prophets and doubting disciples, we scarcely believe that You can right the world. We see suffering and sorrow and sin and wonder if creation is beyond repair. But You hold out healing, wholeness, and hope. You promise to drive out despair and free us from debilitating fear. Broaden our imaginations that we might conceive of communities where all people thrive and embody Your vision of shalom. Expand our hearts, that we might see the extraordinary in our midst and embrace the everlasting joy You bring. Make us prophets of the world You are bringing to birth, that we might prepare a way before You and welcome You with gladness! In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Silent Confession

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Hear the good news! Happy is the person whose helper is the God of old Israel and new Israel.

People: Friends, believe the Good News!

Unison: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

* Gloria Patri

(#623 Hymnal)

Children's Sermon

GOD'S WORK IN PRAYER

Prayer Concerns

Pastor's Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Response

GOD'S WORD

Scripture: Luke 1:46b-55

Choir Anthem: "The Birthday of the King"

Sermon: "May Our Souls Magnify the Lord"

*Hymn #132 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

GOD'S WORK AND WORSHIP IN GIVING

Announcements and Pew Registration

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

* The Doxology

(#625 Hymnal)

* Offertory Prayer

* Hymn #138 "Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

* Benediction

* Response

* Postlude

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Advent Candle Song Verse Three

Light the Advent candle three;
Think of heav'nly harmony;
Angels singing "Peace on Earth"
At the blessed Savior's birth.

Chorus:

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

Like us, Jesus was born into a family with a history and many stories to tell. "So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations."

Most families represent three living generations, some four and a very few have five. From the time of Abraham until the birth of Jesus represented many lifetimes, many lifetimes of waiting for the fulfillment of God's promises. How did people manage to wait that long, long time?

How are we waiting, as we enter the final weeks before Christmas? Naturally, we are getting more excited. The Bible accounts of the birth of Jesus and the events that surrounded it are filled with wonder and excitement. As we share this excitement, are we more joyful and filled with hope, or are we becoming more impatient as Christmas Day draws near?

It might help us to remember that God is arriving now-- in prayer, in the words of Scripture, in everything we are doing to get ready for Christmas. A festival of hospitality and generosity, Christmas often includes time to gather with family and friends at church, at special meals, or at parties of all kinds. Many people travel at Christmas or welcome into their homes friends and family members from far away. As we get ready for an opportunity to serve one another in love, we experience the joy of Christ dwelling within and among us.

Lord Jesus, you know every strength and every weakness of the human frailty. As we light the third candle of Advent, draw us near to you as together we prepare to celebrate your coming and to welcome others in your name. (Light the candle.)

Unison prayer:

As members of a family specially blessed by God, let us join hands and sing praise to God for the wonderful gift of love, which comes from the Holy birth of Jesus Christ the Lord.