



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

December 20, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Pastor: Paula Geister-Jones Lay Ministry Administrator: Jenny Hoffman

Organist/Pianist: Linda Kunz Soloist: Kyla Betts Guitar: Wendy Olson

Lector: Sue Weum (8:00 a.m.) Marti Prine (9:15 a.m.)

Speaker: Sandy Grant Ushers: Jeff Morgan (8:00 a.m.)

Tune your radio to FM 87.9

Technical Support: Thomas Lehr

God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."

CALL TO WORSHIP: "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" Wendy Olson, Guitar

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

P: We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.

C: **As we light the candles on this wreath, open our eyes to see your presence in the lowly ones of this earth.**

P: Enlighten us with your grace, that we may sing of your advent among us in the Word made flesh.

C: **Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. Amen.**

Hymn for the Lighting of the Advent Wreath: "Soon and Very Soon"

Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King, (3 times)
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!

No more cryin' there, we are goin' to see the King, (3 times)
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!

No more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King, (3 times)
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!

Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King, (3 times)
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Loving and forgiving God,

C: We confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.

P: People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free—free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, + comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

OPENING HYMN: "Joy to the World" #267 ELW

Vs. 1: Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Vs. 2: Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Vs. 3: No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

Vs. 4: He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

DIALOGUE

P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

C: **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

P: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

C: **We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

P: To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

C: **In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

Honk your horns to greet one another.

P: Let us pray.

C: **Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

LESSONS AND CAROLS

Isaiah 9:2-7: *God promises a king*

A Word on the Scripture Reading

Hymn: “Love Has Come” #292 ELW vs.1

Love has come—a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

Micah 5:2-5a: *The king will come from Bethlehem*

A Word on the Scripture Reading

Hymn: “O Little Town of Bethlehem” #279 ELW vss. 1 & 4

Vs. 1: 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.

Vs. 4: 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;
oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

Luke 1:26-35, 38: *The Annunciation to Mary*

A Word on the Scripture Reading

Hymn: “My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness” #251 ELW vs. 1

Vs. 1: My soul proclaims your greatness, Lord; I sing my Savior's praise!
You looked upon my lowliness, and I am full of grace.
Now ev'ry land and ev'ry age this blessing shall proclaim—
great wonders you have done for me, and holy is your name.

Luke 2:1-7: *The birth of Jesus*

A Word on the Scripture Reading

Hymn: “Away in a Manger” #277 ELW vss. 1 & 2

Vs. 1: Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Vs. 2: The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus,
no crying he makes. I love you, Lord Jesus;
look down from the sky and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Luke 2:8-16: *The shepherds go to see the Savior*

A Word on the Scripture Reading

Hymn: "Angels We Have Heard on High" #289 ELW vss. 1 – 3

Vs. 1: Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain: **Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.**

Vs. 2: Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song? **Refrain**

Vs. 3: Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king. **Refrain**

Luke 2:21-36: *Jesus receives his name*

A Word on the Scripture Reading

Hymn: "That Boy-Child of Mary: #293 ELW vss. 1 & 2

Refrain: **That boy-child of Mary was born in a stable,
a manger his cradle in Bethlehem.**

Vs. 1: What shall we call him, child of the manger?
What name is given in Bethlehem? **Refrain**

Vs. 2: His name is Jesus, God ever with us,
God given for us in Bethlehem. **Refrain**

Matthew 2:1-11: *The magi follow the star*

A Word on the Scripture Reading

Hymn: "The First Noel" #300 ELW vss. 1-3

Vs. 1: The first Noel the angel did say

was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

Vs. 2: They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. **Refrain**

Vs. 3: And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. **Refrain**

Matthew 2:13-18: *The slaughter of the holy innocents*

A Word on the Scripture Reading

Special Music: "Sweet Little Jesus Boy" Wendy Olson

John 1:1-14: *The mystery of the incarnation*

A Word on the Scripture Reading

Hymn: "He Came Down" #253 ELW vs. 1-4

Vs. 1: He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love; hallelujah forevermore.

Vs. 2: He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
he came down that we may have light; hallelujah forevermore.

Vs. 3: He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have
peace; he came down that we may have peace; hallelujah forevermore.

Vs. 4: He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy; hallelujah forevermore.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

P: Glory to God in the highest,

C: and peace to God's people on earth.

P: Blessed are you, Prince of peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.

C: Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

P: Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.

C: Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.

P: Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

C: Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world.

PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always

C: And also with you.

Honk your horns to greet one another.

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 trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

P: The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long expected Savior to fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit to guide your journey, + now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

Honk your horns to greet one another.

SENDING SONG: "Go Tell It on the Mountain" #290 ELW vss. 1-3

Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;

go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

Vs. 1: While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. **Refrain**

Vs. 2: The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. **Refrain**

Vs. 3: Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. **Refrain**

POSTLUDE: "Go Tell It? Set by Wonacott