

Worship Leader Edition
Third Sunday of Advent

December 12, 2021

8:30 AM

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS *{Front Center}* (Pastor Rob)

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH *(Larry and Marilyn Nelson)*

L: Last Sunday we lit the candle of Hope, remembering the hope which comes in Christ, and we lit the candle of Peace, remembering God's dream of a peaceful world. (Light Hope and Peace Candles). Today we light the third candle of Advent, the candle of Joy. In Advent, we are in a time of waiting. Like the Israelites who wandered through the Wilderness, waiting to come into the Promised Land, we wait for the coming of the Joy of Ages. We wait for the day where we can join our voices with the angels to sing "Joy to the World, the Lord is come!" We wait for the day when everlasting joy will be on each of us.

We light this candle in Joy. (Light Candle)

C: On this day, we remember the Spirit who breathes joy into our lives.

With Permission: Rev. Will Ryan, First Christian Church (DOC), Burlington, Iowa. Liturgy Links - 2016

CANDLE LIGHTING

"Christ, Be Our Light"

ELW #715

Verse 3

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
Shared until all are fed.

Refrain

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

+CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *{Front Center}* (Pastor Rob)

L: In this season of waiting, in this time of preparation, we long to draw closer to God, as our comfort and savior. So often, we get in our own way; we make choices that trip us up as we move away from God. So then, let us make our confession in this moment of silence.

(silence...)

L: Holy God...

C: we often forget what this story is about – the birth of our Savior Jesus. We've wrapped ourselves with so much planning, shopping, and decorating, we haven't left time to give thanks for the one who changed the world. Forgive us. Open our hearts, so we may share our love for you, your creation, and all your children. Heal us, we pray.

L: Friends, hear this good news: in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Freed to love and serve.

C: Alleluia! Amen.

(Adapted from Beth Merrill Neel's 'Hold Fast to What Is Good'. Used with permission.)

+GATHERING HYMN

"We Are Called"

ELW #720

Verse 1

Come! Live in the light!
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom,
To live in the freedom of the city of God.

To walk humbly with God.

Verse 2

Come! Open your heart!
Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless
So hatred and blindness will be no more.

Refrain

We are called to act with justice,
We are called to love tenderly;
We are called to serve one another,

Refrain

Verse 3

Sing! Sing a new song!
Sing of that great day when all will be one!

God will reign, and we'll walk with each other
As sisters and brothers united in love.

Refrain

+GREETING {*Front Center*} (*Becky Olson*)

L: The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

(*Assistant may be seated if not cantoring*)

+KYRIE (*cantor and congregation*)

ELW pg. 138

L: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord have mercy.

L: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord have mercy.

L: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

+HYMN OF PRAISE (*cantor and congregation*)

“Glory to God”

ELW pg. 139

L: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth.

C: Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lam of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

+PRAYER OF THE DAY {*Front Center*} (*Becky Olson*)

L: Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING (*Lori Murray*)

Micah 5:2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

+GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“Alleluia”

ELW pg. 142

C: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

+THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 1:29-56

But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no

end.” Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her. In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.” And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.” And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Rob Norris-Weber

+HYMN OF THE DAY

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

ELW #295

Verse 1

Of the Father’s love begotten
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the source, the ending he,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore.

Verse 2

Oh, that birth forever blessed,
When the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
Bore the Savior of our race,
And the babe, the world’s redeemer,
First revealed his sacred face,
Evermore and evermore!

Verse 3

This is he whom seers in old time
Chanted of with one accord,
Whom the voices of the prophets
Promised in their faithful word;

Now he shines, the long expected;
Let creation praise its Lord
Evermore and evermore!

Verse 4

Let the heights of heav’n adore him;
Angel hosts, his praises sing;
Pow’rs, dominions, bow before him
And extol our God and King;
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Ev’ry voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore!

Verse 5

Christ, to thee, with God the Father,
And, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
And unwearied praises be:
Honor, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory
Evermore and evermore! Amen.

+THE APOSTLES’ CREED *{Front Center}* (Becky Olson)

Screen

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

+THE PRAYERS {*Front Center*} (Becky Olson)

Screen

After each petition:

L: God of love,

C: **we wait in hope.**

+THE LORD'S PRAYER {*Front Center*} (Becky Olson)

Screen

C: **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.**

TIME OF REFLECTION AND RESPONSE

“Magnificat”

Gail Gillespie

St. Luke's Choir

SENDING

+SHARING OF THE PEACE {*Front Center*} (Pastor Rob)

L: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

+BENEDICTION {*Front Center*} (Pastor Rob)

L: Be people of joy. Let joy live in your heart and share the joy of Christ with all you meet. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Adapted from Rev. Susannah DeBenedetto's Benediction, Christ Congregational Church & Takoma Park Presbyterian Church, Takoma Park MD

+SENDING HYMN

“Canticle of the Turning”

ELW #723

Verse 1

My soul cries out with a joyful shout
That the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things
That you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
And my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near
And the world is about to turn.

Verse 2

Though I am small, my God, my all,
You work great things in me,
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past
To the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,
And to those who would for you yearn,
You will show your might, put the strong to flight,
For the world is about to turn.

Refrain

Verse 3

From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r,
Not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
Ev'ry tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more,
For the food they can never earn;
There are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,
For the world is about to turn.

Refrain

Verse 4

Though the nations rage from age to age,
We remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
From the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard
Is the promise which holds us bound,
Till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
Who is turning the world around.

Refrain

+DISMISSAL *{Front Center}* (*Becky Olson*)

L: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE