

Third Sunday in Advent

December 12, 2021

10 am

GATHERING TO PRAISE GOD

Pre-Service Music

Northside Chapel Praise Band

Prelude

Adeste, fideles

Andy Potts

~ David Schelet

Welcome

Call to Worship

In the midst of end-of-year weariness,
hectic schedules and frenzied preparations,
we come to this space to pause, to listen,
and to remember why we celebrate this season at all.

Gathered here, let us declare our intention to live
as if the greatest gift in the world
were about to be placed into our hands—
as if the Giver has understood
our deepest needs, our most heartfelt prayers.

**We come with open hands and open hearts,
ready to welcome God's gift to us in Jesus.**

Opening Song

Come Make a Place

Northside Chapel Praise Band

Joel Lindsey | Sue C. Smith

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Verse 1

There in the hay Mary placed You, and Joseph kept You warm
You just arrived and with Your first cry, You fit right into their arms
Just as You did in the stable, come do it all again
There's room for You, Lord You're invited in

Chorus

Come make a place, the shape of Your love alone
Come make a place, come make my heart Your home
Jesus, I'm empty without You and You're ev'rything I need
So come with Your grace, come make a place in me

Verse 2

I wasn't there at the manger the night You came to earth
Angels appeared but I didn't hear the song that announced Your birth
Just as the shepherds came searching and wise men came to see

I come to You, trusting You'll come to me

Chorus

Come make a place, the shape of Your love alone
Come make a place, come make my heart Your home
Jesus, I'm empty without You and You're ev'rything I need
So come with Your grace, come make a place in me

Ending

So come with Your grace, come make a place in me

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Yellow Roses

Advent is the time when love comes for us.

When the world dwelt in darkness - stumbling in error, with smallness of our hearts still concealed - God broke in, fulfilling the prophet's message:

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

Just as the carol, "Silent Night," proclaims, Jesus is love's pure light. Today we light the third candle on our Advent wreath in anticipation of the light that shines in the darkness - the everlasting love of God - so bright that the darkness cannot overcome it.

At the end of the reading, all pray together:

Let us pray together:

Almighty God, just as You pierced the world's darkness so long ago, enter the shadows of our world once more. Dispel our fears, reveal our hearts, and illumine our path. May we joyfully welcome the light of Your love, so that it may fill us and shine forth from our lives. Amen.

Response

O Come, All Ye Faithful

UMH#234(v. 2)

John F. Wade | trans. Frederick Oakley

Words & Music: Public Domain

Verse 2

True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal: Lo, He shuns not the Virgin's womb
Son of the Father, begotten, not created (**refrain**)

Refrain

O come, let us adore Him; O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord

A Message for Young Disciples

Cara Norris

Proclamation and Response

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First Reading

Luke 1:26-38

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² 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. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ 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. ³⁶ 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. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ 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.

Anthem

Celtic Christmas Celebration

Chancel Singers

Lari Goss

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Second Reading

John 1:1-5

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Message

The Heart that Grew Three Sizes: When Light Shines

Pastor Jen Eschliman

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

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. Amen.

Offering Ourselves & Our Gifts to God

Offertory*Shades of Forest Green*

Joyful Noise Handbell Choir

(Alternate Tune for *O Little Town of Bethlehem*)

Traditional English Melody | arr. Tim Waugh

Offertory Prayer**Closing Hymn***O Little Town of Bethlehem*

UMH#230

Phillips Brooks | Lewis H. Redner

Words & Music: Public Domain

Verse 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

Verse 2

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love
O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth

Verse 3

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin
Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in

Verse 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
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel

Sending Forth**Announcements**

Angel Tree – please purchase gift cards and give to Liz Livermore by next Sunday to help support 30 families from 2 local schools this Christmas.

Christmas Eve Services – 4:30 & 7pm

Cookie Walk – today, join us in the Fellowship Hall after the service

Longest Night – Monday, December 20th, 7 pm in Northside Chapel

Benediction**Postlude***Improvisation on Forest Green*

Andy Potts

(O Little Town of Bethlehem)

~Hopson/Rawsthorne