

Fourth Sunday in Advent
December 18, 2022
10 am

GATHERING TO PRAISE GOD

Preservice Music

Northside Chapel Praise Band

Prelude

O Come, All Ye Faithful
arr. Joel Raney

Andy Potts
Chancel Singers

Welcome

Anthem

Carol Medley
arr. Bradley Knight

Chancel Singers

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Call to Worship

- Adapted from a Call to Worship by Rev. Nancy J, <http://ruminari.wordpress.com/>

Elise Myers

Good morning! (feel free to introduce yourself!) As you are able, please rise in body or in spirit and join me in the Call to Worship:

All creation holds its breath.

The time is almost here.

The heavenly choir of angels waits for its cue to sing.

Excitement fills the air.

This is the Good News:

The love of God takes on human form!

With joy and thanksgiving, let us join our voices with those of the angels:

Glory to God in the highest and peace to all on earth!

Opening Hymn

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

UMH# 240

Charles Wesley | Felix Mendelssohn | Words & Music: Public Domain

Verse 1

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Verse 2

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Verse 3

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord
Late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Will, Vera & Ysabel Biles

Leader:

Every year we light candles as we prepare for the coming of Christ.
More and more candles, more and more light,

as we watch and wait for Jesus, the Light of the World.

Congregation:

God of Promise, come into our darkness.

**Renew Your hope, peace, joy and love in us,
for You alone bring life out of death.**

Leader:

At Christmas, we are reminded that we serve a God who "so loved the world that He gave His only Son." Jesus is God's love in human form, and even while we await His birth in a stable in Bethlehem, we also remember His death and resurrection, which prove that there is no greater power than Love. God's love is stronger than rulers and empires, stronger than grief or despair, stronger even than death.

Congregation:

Eternal God, thank You for Your love, perfectly revealed to us in Jesus Christ our Savior. As we celebrate the story of Your Love made flesh, make us ready to receive Him. This Christmas may our experience of Your love extend beyond mere knowledge to a reality that fills us with joy and drives away all doubt and fear. We ask this in Christ's most holy name. Amen.

Anthem

Changed By a Baby Boy

Seasoned Singers

Benjamin William Gaither | Gloria Gaither |

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Message for Young Disciples

Pastor Jen

Proclamation and Response

The Scripture reading is taken from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition.

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Anthem

King Jesus Is His Name

Chancel Singers

Kim Moon, soloist

B. Mason | D. Douglas | W. C. Dix | Traditional | arr. M. Speck | T. Parton | orch. C. Duren © 1995 Pamela Kay Music; Brentwood Benson Publishing (ASCAP) (admin. at CapitolCMGPublishing.com); Praise & Worship Works (ASCAP). Used by permission. WORSHIPCast License # 13427. CCLI License #21050401.

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:8-20

Elise Myers

The Gospel Reading is from the Gospel of Luke, chapter 2, beginning in verse 8:

⁸ Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, ¹⁹ and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

I Am Bethlehem... (and other pre-Christmas meditations)

Written by the Rev. Al Barrett

Bethlehem

Kelly Fairhurst

Response

O Little Town of Bethlehem

UMH #230

(vv. 1)

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

Mary

Laura Harry

Joseph

Sean Myers

Response

O Little Town of Bethlehem

UMH #230

(vv. 2)

Phillips Brooks | Lewis H. Redner | Words & Music: Public Domain

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

A Shepherd

George Hoffmann

The Innkeeper

Scott Forbes

Response

O Little Town of Bethlehem

UMH# 230

(v. 3)

Phillips Brooks | Lewis H. Redner | Words & Music: Public Domain

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

A Wise Man

Jerry Gaudi

Everyperson

Pastor Jen Eschliman

Response

O Little Town of Bethlehem

UMH# 230

(v. 4)

Phillips Brooks | Lewis H. Redner | Words & Music: Public Domain

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

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts to God

Offertory

Ding! Dong! Merrily on High

arr. Larry Shackley

Alyssa Martin, flute

Andy Potts, piano

Closing Prayer

Closing Hymn

Joy to the World

(vv. 1-2, 4)

George Frideric Handel | Isaac Watts | Words & Music: Public Domain

UMH# 246

Verse 1

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing

Verse 2

Joy to the world 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

Verse 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

Sending Forth

Benediction

Postlude

Toccata on Mendelssohn

Arr. Joel Raney

Andy Potts