



First Presbyterian Church

OF LAKE FOREST

December 13, 2020

Third Sunday of Advent

PRAYER for PREPARATION

Lord Jesus,
Master of both the light and the darkness,
send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.
We have so much to do and seek quiet
space to hear your voice each day;
We who are anxious over many things look forward
to your coming among us.
We who are blessed in so many ways long for
the complete joy of your kingdom.
We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of
your presence.
We are your people, walking in darkness,
yet seeking the light;
To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"

-Henry J. M. Nouwen

PRELUDE

Ding, Dong, Merrily on High
Angel Tidings

arr. Fred Gramann, 2007
Cynthia Dobrinski, 1985

THE WELCOME

LIGHTING the ADVENT WREATH

The Johnson and Coyle Families

CALL to WORSHIP

- Isaiah 49:13

Leader: Sing for joy, O heavens, and exalt, O earth;
Break forth, O mountains, into singing!

**People: For the Lord has comforted his people;
God will have compassion on his suffering ones.**

HYMN OF PRAISE, No 113 Angels We Have Heard on High

TUNE: GLORIA

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

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

*Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song?*

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

*Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King!*

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

CALL to CONFESSION

Psalm 72:2

God judges the nations with righteousness,
and answers the poor with justice.
Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER of CONFESSION

God of glory,
you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world,
to reveal your love for all people.
We confess that our sin and pride
hide the brightness of your light.
We turn away from the poor;
we ignore cries for justice;
we do not strive for peace.

In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin,
and pour out the gifts of your Spirit,
that, forgiven and renewed,
we many show forth your glory
Shining in the face of Jesus Christ.

ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

Psalm 72:6

Leader: The mercy of the Lord is like rain,
like showers that water the earth.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
People: Thanks be to God.

SUNG RESPONSE**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

Tune: VENI EMMANUEL

*O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

PASSING the PEACE of CHRIST**PRAYER for ILLUMINATION**

Holy God, our hope and strength,
by the power of your Spirit
prepare the way in our hearts
for the coming of your Word,
so that we may see the glorious signs
of your promise fulfilled;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’

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.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“The Journey to Joy”

Rev. Clinton G. Roberts

“FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS”

Chris Edwards

OFFERING

Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming

arr. Cynthia Dobrinski, 1992

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen.

HYMN of SENDING, No 123

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

TUNE: CAROL

*It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heaven's all gracious King:
the world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.*

*Yet with the woes of sin and strife
the world has suffered long;
beneath the heavenly hymn has rolled
two thousand years of wrong;
and we at war on earth hear not
the tidings that they bring;
O, hush the noise and cease the strife
to hear the angels sing!*

*And you, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow,
look now, for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing:
O, rest beside the weary road,
and hear the angels sing.*

*For lo, the days are hastening on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the evercircling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world give back the song
which now the angels sing.*

CHARGE and BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccata on Veni Emmanuel

Adolphus Hailstork, 1996

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Pastor Kristie's day off is on Friday. Pastor Clint's day off is on Monday.

Worship Participants

Rev. Clinton Roberts

Rev. Kristie Finley

Jim Cochrane, Director of Youth Ministries

Sarah Seccombe, Director of Children's Ministries

Barry Wenger, Director of Bell Choirs and Organist

Tom Tropp, Director of Music and Arts

Susan Noble, Director of Children's Music

Susanna Noble

Molly Newman, Reader

Lakeminster Ringers

Will Elliot, AV Support

Peter Elliot, AV Support