



First Presbyterian Church

OF LAKE FOREST

December 20, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Advent

PRAYER for PREPARATION

O God, we thank you
that Jesus showed your love for every person-
babies and children, old people and young,
sick people and those who were strong,
rich people and those who were poor.
Come to us in this Advent season,
and give us love in our hearts for all people.
Amen.

PRELUDE

Advent Carol (Veni, Emmanuel) arr. Hal H. Hopson, 1994

WELCOME

LIGHTING of the ADVENT WREATH

The Murphy and Severson Families

CALL to WORSHIP

-Christina Rossetti

Leader: Love came down at Christmas,

People: Love all lovely, Love Divine.

Leader: Love was born at Christmas,

People: Stars and Angel gave the sign.

HYMN OF PRAISE, No 119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

TUNE: MENDELSSOHN

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 the angelic host proclaim,

“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Refrain:

Hark! The herald angels sing,

“Glory to the newborn king!”

Christ, by highest heaven adored,

Christ, the everlasting Lord,

late in time behold him come,

offspring of the virgin’s womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;

hail the incarnate deity,

pleased in flesh with us to dwell,

Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Refrain:

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 we may no more die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.*

Refrain:

CALL to CONFESSION

We live as though Christ had never been born.
We abuse the privileges
that are ours as children of God.
Let us confess our sin before God.

PRAYER of CONFESSION

**God, you have come to us in Jesus,
your true child,
in whom you give us power to be your children.
Yet, O God,
we confess that we turn from your love,
fearing the comfort and challenge of being your children.
We are your own,
Yet we refuse you,
clinging to the security of familiar ways
rather than accepting the new life you offer.
We tolerate hatred, violence, and injustice
in the world you loved so well
that you sent the child Jesus,
begotten from your own being.
We trust not in ourselves,
but in your great compassion.
Forgive us, and renew a right spirit within us
that we many live as your children
and once again praise you;
through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

Leader: Hear the good news, children of God:

In Jesus Christ,
God forgives and frees you.
Live by the Spirit.
Walk in the Light.

People: Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Tune: VENI EMMANUEL

*O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

PASSING the PEACE of CHRIST

PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

A READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Matthew 1:26-2:12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;

for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.” ’

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“The Gifts of the Gentiles”

Rev. Clinton G. Roberts

OFFERING

Love Has Come

arr. Barry J. Wenger

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 147

The First Nowell

TUNE: THE FIRST NOWELL

*The first Nowell 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

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.*

*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

*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

*Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought.*

Refrain

CHARGE and BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccata on Hark the Herald! arr. David Willcocks, 1995

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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

Chancel Bells

Will Elliot, AV Support

Peter Elliot, AV Support