

The Worship of God

Sanctuary

December 8, 2019

11 am

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Prelude on Veni Emmanuel Alec Wyton
The text and tune is that of hymn # 211 (1921-2007)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord
make straight in the desert a highway for our God."

Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 220

Angels from the Realms of Glory REGENT SQUARE

Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth; Once you sang creation's story, Now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Refrain: **Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.**

Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night, God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light. Refrain

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar; seek the great desire of nations, you have seen his natal star. Refrain

Please be seated

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

Katherine, Elizabeth and Holland Shoaf

HYMN No. 209 (VERSE 1)

Blessed Be the God of Israel MERLE'S TUNE

**Blessed be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free,
who visits and redeems us, and grants us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill the promise to bring our people peace.**

BIDDING PRAYER

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.

Welcome!

Thank you for worshipping with us this morning! Please take a moment to sign the attendance notebooks during the announcements. If you are a guest, please leave your contact information and a pastor will contact you this week with more information about our church.

Because we wish to comply with directives from the High Point Fire inspector, we will not have candles near live or artificial greenery. We have purchased beautiful Advent Candle Stands for the sanctuary and chapel.

ANTHEM

Love Came Down At Christmas.....John Rutter

Chancel Choir

Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely, love divine; love was born at Christmas, star and angels gave the sign. Worship we the Godhead, love incarnate, love divine; worship we our Jesus; but wherewith for sacred sign? Love shall be our token, love be yours and love be mine; love to God and all men, love for plea, and gift and sign. (Christina Rossetti)

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 23:5-6 (OT Pg. 725)

The Lord promises to send his people a righteous king

Jacob Lancaster

O Lord, make your spirit rest upon us as it rested upon the coming Christ,
That we may share in his wisdom, righteousness, and justice.

CAROL

God Of The Watching Ones.....Lee Dengler

Chancel Choir

God of the watching ones, the waiting ones, the slow and the suffering ones, the angels in heaven, the child in the womb. Grant us your healing peace, your gift of love, the hope of eternal life, the flower of Jesse, the rose yet to bloom. We are the watching ones, waiting in the night for shadows to vanish, revealing wondrous light. We are the hopeful ones, longing to see the Savior, the Son of Man who comes to set us free. O come long-expected One. Come, promised One, Messiah. Come, anointed One. Come, Love's Son from heaven, divine incarnation, God's great mystery. God of the watching ones come set us free!

SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 40: 3-5 (OT Pg. 667)

The prophet Isaiah foretells the glory of the Lord

Stuart Nunn III

O Lord, in a world where so often the ground is uneven and paths are winding,
May our voices cry out to prepare the way of the Lord.

CAROL

Prepare The Way, O Zion.....Kenneth Dake

Chancel Choir

Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near! Let every hill and valley a level way appear. Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story. Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name. He brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above. His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth and love. Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding, Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

THIRD LESSON

Luke 1: 26-35 (NT Pg. 56)

The angel Gabriel appears to Mary

Melissa Lowe

O Lord, just as Mary was surprised and afraid, we often do not understand your ways.
Even still we pray, let us be favored, like Mary, to bear your Word to all the Earth.

CAROL

Song of Mary.....Richard Shephard

Chancel Choir

My Lord and Savior is my song, he fills my spirit with delight, to raise me up his arm is strong, the lowly precious in his sight. Magnificat anima mea Dominum. (My soul magnifies the

"Love Came Down at Christmas" was purchased for the glory of God by Anthem Angels Lou Anne and Dan Hamilton in loving memory of Louise Zimmerman.

String instruments were sponsored for the glory of God by Claudette Walton in loving memory of her husband, Colby Walton; and Dale and Debbie Williams and Don, Carolyn and Luke Shaw in honor of Frank Pifferetti and Anne Carroll.

"Song of Mary" was purchased for the glory of God by Anthem Angel Karl Koebberling in loving memory of Mary Louise Koebberling.

Lord.) My name shall live from age to age, and every tongue his servant bless, for mercy is their heritage whose hearts the Holy One confess. The proud beguiled by dreams of power divided and degraded lie: he casts them down from throne and tower and stoops to lift the humble high. He feeds the hungry at his board and sends the rich unfilled away, and mindful of his promised word has answered Israel's prayer today. With all the elders of our race, and those unborn who seek this birth, I sing the glory of his grace who brings eternity to earth.

FOURTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7 (NT Pg. 58)

Saint Luke tells of the birth of Jesus

Kim Kennett

O Lord, when you came into this world, we could find no place for you.

May our hearts open wide for you to be born in us today.

CAROL

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen.....arr. Molly Ijames

Chancel Choir

God rest ye merry, gentlemen let nothing you dismay; remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day, to save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray, Refrain: O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy! From God our heavenly Father a blessed angel came, and unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same, how that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name. Refrain. "Fear not," then, said the angel, "let nothing you affright, this day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright, to free all those who trust in Him from Satan's power and might," Refrain. Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place, and with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace; this sacred time of Christmas tide all others now deface; Refrain.

FIFTH LESSON

Luke 2: 8-20 (NT Pg. 58)

The angels and the shepherds

Karen Odom

O Lord, just as the shepherds worshipped you in the manger,

May we worship you with our very lives.

CAROL

Wexford Carol.....arr. Elaine Hagenberg

Chancel Choir

Good people all, this Christmas time, consider well, and bear in mind, what our good God for us has done, in sending his beloved Son. With Mary holy, we should pray to God with love this Christmas Day; in Bethlehem upon that morn, there was a blessed Messiah born. Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep; to whom God's angels did appear, which put the shepherds in great fear. "Prepare and go," the angels said, "to Bethlehem. Be not afraid. For there you'll find this happy morn a princely babe sweet Jesus born." With thankful heart and joyful mind, the shepherds went the babe to find, and as God's angels had foretold they did our Savior Christ behold. Within a manger he was laid, and by His side the virgin maid attending on the Lord of Life who came to earth to end all strife. With Mary holy, we should pray to God with love this Christmas Day; in Bethlehem upon that morn, there was a blessed Messiah born.

"Wexford Carol" was purchased for the glory of God by Anthem Angels Bob and Sallie Amos in loving memory of their parents, Ginnie and Bill Corrigan and Martha and Bob Amos.

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL No. 238

Angels We Have Heard On High.....GLORIA

(There will be an interlude between each verse.)

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

Refrain: **Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

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

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing; come adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king. Refrain

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

Please Stand As You Are Able.

DOXOLOGY No. 95

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow OLD 100TH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host, praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Please be seated.

SIXTH LESSON

Matthew 2: 1-11 (NT Pg. 2)

The Wise Men are led by the star to Jesus

Clark Chilton

O Lord, as the Wise Men were led by your light in the heavens

Shine your light in our hearts that we may take it into all the world.

Carol

Unto Us Is Born A Son arr. David Willcocks

Chancel Choir

Unto us is born a Son, King of quires(choirs) supernal: see on earth his life begun, of lords the Lord eternal. Christ, from heaven descending low, comes on earth a stranger; ox and ass their owner know, becradled in the manger. This did Herod sore affray(afraid), and grievously bewilder, so he gave the word to slay, and slew the little childer(children). Of his love and mercy mild this the Christmas story; and O that Mary's gentle Child might lead us up to glory. O and A,(Omega and Alpha) and A and O, cum cantibus in choro (with songs in the choir), let our merry organ go, benedicamus Domino (bless the Lord).

Please Stand as You Are Able.

SEVENTH LESSON

John 1:1-14 (NT Pg. 91)

Saint John unfolds the mystery of the Incarnation

Jeff Patterson

In the beginning, you were. Today, you are. Forever, you will be.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL No. 234

O Come, All Ye Faithful ADESTE FIDELES

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem. Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

Refrain: **O come let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

True God of true God, Light from Light from Light Eternal, lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb; Son of the Father, begotten, not created; Refrain

See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle, leaving their flocks, draw nigh to

Service Notes:

The Call to Worship is from *The United Methodist Book of Worship* © 1992 by the United Methodist Publishing House. The Prayer is from *The Book of Common Prayer* certified by Charles Mortimer Guilbert, Custodian of the Standard Book of Common Prayer September 1979.

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gaze; we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps; Refrain

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;** Refrain

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning, Jesus, to thee be all glory given.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;** Refrain

BENEDICTION AND CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Angels We Have Heard on High..... GLORIA

Refrain: **Gloria in excelsis Deo**

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Finale on Veni, Veni, Emmanuel Gordon Phillips
(1908-1991)

Worship Leaders: Jeff Patterson, Senior Pastor; Clark Chilton, Associate Pastor for Contemporary Worship and Evangelism; Melissa Lowe, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care and Missions; Jacob Lancaster, Pastoral Intern; Katherine, Elizabeth and Holland Shoaf, Advent Reader; Karen Odom, Kim Kennett, Stuart Nunn, Lesson Readers; Anne Carroll, Director of Music; Chancel Choir; Frank Pifferetti, Organist; Kelsey Philbrick, Jennifer Lane, violins; Kate Middel, viola; Lynne Latham, cello; Anna Lampidis, oboe; Arden Yates, Hannah Reeves, Acolytes; Charley Doak, Crucifer; Caroline Boger, Book Bearer; Joe Gamble, Altar Guild; Dave McCoy, Sound Engineer.

Ushers for the month of December: Scott Dunbar, Windley Dunbar, Barbara Frye, Miles Gurley, Jane Harriss, Stuart Nunn, Tom Smothers.

Greeters: Wanna Blanton, Bill Bradner, Brian Bunch.