

A Service For The Worship Of God

December 24, 2017

4th Sunday of Advent

We give thanks that God has called us to worship together.

Processional Hymn #56

The First Nowell(VERSES 1,3 & 6)

A Word of Welcome and Announcements

Advent Devotional

Reader: On this fourth Sunday in Advent, we remember the angel Gabriel's proclamation that God's love for the world would be revealed in a child that would be born to a young girl of low estate.

Reader: But the way this love was revealed was totally unexpected – even scandalous.

Reader: By coming in human flesh, God let the world see into the very heart of the Creator of the Universe.

Reader: From the One who came into the world on that first Christmas Eve, we learned the extent of **God's love and we also learned that each of us are truly beloved children of the Almighty.**

Reader: We now light the Candle of Love, symbolizing our longing for the day of Christ's return; symbolizing the amazing love of God shown through Christ. Come Lord Jesus.

(The candle of love is lit.)

Reader: Let us join in prayer.

Unison: **Loving God, while we patiently wait for Christ's coming again, help us to marvel on the fact that your love for each of us knows no bounds. May this love now be mirrored in all aspects of our lives as we freely share it with others. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Hymn #5

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Minute For Mission

Call To Confession

Confident of God's gracious love for us, let us, in all humility and faith, confess our sin before God and one another. Let us pray together.

Prayer of Confession (In Unison)

Lord, we love to hear the story of Mary. We marvel that God would take a young woman from a small town to accomplish God's purpose. We confess that we miss God's opportunities in our lives. We have blotted out the possibility that God could use us to accomplish God's purposes of healing and hope. We think that we are unworthy and that God would surely seek someone else to do the work. It is easy for us to put down the gifts God has lavished upon us, suggesting that we can't use them, don't know how to use them, or simply don't have the time. Lord, forgive us for our stubbornness, our faithlessness, our selfishness. Heal and restore us.

(Silent Confession) — In Christ's name we pray. **Amen.**

Assurance Of Pardon

Leader: All things, in heaven and on earth, are reconciled to God in Jesus Christ. Forgiveness is ours through faith in the Lord, in whom God was pleased to dwell. Know that we are forgiven and be at peace.

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God

***Gloria Patri:** *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.*

Passing The Peace Of Christ

Leader: As a forgiven people, let us share the peace of Christ
The Peace Of Christ Be With You.

People: And Also With You.

Leader: Let us turn and greet one another

Children's Time

Hymn #58

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

Prayers Of The People and Lord's Prayer

(You are invited to share out loud your prayer concerns and joys)

Leader: Lord in you mercy

People: Hear our prayer.

Lord's Prayer (in unison)

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.

Prayer Response

Hymn #325 Spirit Divine, Attend Our Prayers

Spirit divine, attend our prayers,
And make this house your home;
Descend with all your gracious powers;
O come, great Spirit, come!

Offering (let us present our Offerings, Tithes and Gifts to the Lord)

Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Anthem

Scripture

On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, "No; he is to be called John." They said to her, "None of your relatives has this name." Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, "What then will this child become?" For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

Zechariah's Prophecy

Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

He has raised up a mighty savior for us

in the house of his servant David,

as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,

and has remembered his holy covenant,

the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,

to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,

might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness

before him all our days.

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

to give knowledge of salvation to his people

by the forgiveness of their sins.

By the tender mercy of our God,

the dawn from on high will break upon us,

to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,

to guide our feet into the way of peace."

Message

Hymn: We Have A Savior

A child has been given

King of our freedom

Sing for the Light has come

This is Christmas

Hallelujah Chorus

Luke 1:59-79 (NRSV)

Come and adore Him
And bring gifts before Him
Joy to the world
Worship the Son
This is Christmas

Rev. Jack Cormack

Hillsong

Chorus

This is Jesus Emmanuel
Here with us tell all the world
We have a Savior
We have a Savior

We are no longer lost
Cause He has come down for us
We have a Savior
We have a Savior

Sing with the angels
And lift up your voices
Join in the song of hope
This is Christmas

This is Jesus Emmanuel
Here with us tell all the world
We have a Savior
We have a Savior

We are no longer lost
Cause He has come down for us
We have a Savior
We have a Savior

His love will reign forever
His love will reign forever
His love will reign forev - er
His love will reign forever
His love will reign forever
His love will reign forev - er

This is Jesus Emmanuel
Here with us tell all the world
We have a Savior
We have a Savior

We are no longer lost
Cause He has come down for us
We have a Savior
We have a Savior

***Charge and Benediction**

***Response**

While We Are Waiting, Come

*While we are waiting come, while we are waiting come
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.
With power and glory come; with power and glory come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.
Come, Savior quickly come; come, Savior, quickly come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.*

***=Those for whom it is comfortable are invited to stand**

Rev. Jack Cormack
Jennifer McCullough
Jo Lynne Palmerton

Pastor
Director of Music
Pianist