

December 20, 2020 ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE: "O Come, All Ye Faithful with Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" - arr.
Bernardine Johnson

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISM:

Mae Guthrie, 23rd
Mike Strawderman, 23rd

GATHERING SONG: No. 314 - "Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness" - v. 3
and refrain

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

SONG OF PREPARATION: NO. 92 – "While We Are Waiting, Come" - v. 3

Come, Savior, quickly come;
come, Savior, quickly come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
while we are waiting, come.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

OPENING SONG OF PRAISE: No. 144 – "In the Bleak Midwinter" – v. 1-2, 4

In the bleak midwinter,
frosty wind made moan;
earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone;

snow had fallen, snow on snow,
snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him,
nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away
when he comes to reign:
in the bleak midwinter
a stable place sufficed
the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.

What can I give him,
poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man,
I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

ADMITTING THE BROKENNESS OF LIFE

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison):

**God our Savior, we ask for your mercy.
Though we have heard Mary's song, we still seek security in
pride and power and possessions. Though we know your story,
we resist the costs of following you.
We pass by those considered lowly in this world.
We turn away from hungry people who still wait to be filled.
Forgive us, we pray.
Help us to work for the justice you intend.
Make us messengers of the peace you bring.
As we wait for you, turn our apathy into acts of love and
service. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.**

Time for Silent Confession

Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

SONG OF RESPONSE: No. 104 – “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?” - v. 1

O Lord, how shall I meet you,
how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you,
my hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, Lord most holy,
a lamp within my breast,
to do in spirit lowly
all that may please you best.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

ENCOUNTERING THE WORD IN OUR MIDST

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 113; Luke 1:26-56

SERMON

HYMN OF RESPONSE: No. 101 – “No Wind at the Window”

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: from *A Declaration of Faith*

We affirm that Jesus was born of woman as is every child, yet born of God's power as was no other child.

In the person and work of Jesus, God himself and a human life are united but not confused, distinguished but not separated. The coming of Jesus was itself the coming of God's promised rule. Through his birth, life, death, and resurrection, he brings about the relationship between God and humanity that God always intended.

RESPONDING IN GRATITUDE AND SERVICE

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS

*DOXOLOGY: No. 709 – “God, We Honor You”

God, we honor you.
God, we trust in you.
God, we worship and adore you.
Take what we bring,
offered to you.
Teach us to show your abundant blessings.
Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

*FINAL HYMN: “Hope Waits for Us at Advent”

Hope waits for us at Advent. Hope waits for us to trust.
Hope waits for our commitment to a land that’s kind and just.
In this time of preparation for the work of co-creation,
For the birthing of a world that heals the ones in pain,
Hope is born in us again.

Peace waits for us at Advent. Peace waits for us to rest.
Peace waits for our acceptance of the truth that we are blessed.
In this time of preparation for the work of co-creation,
For the birthing of a world of gentleness and play,
Peace is born in us each day.

Joy waits for us at Advent. Joy waits for us to sing.
Joy waits for our amazement at the grace in everything.
In this time of preparation for the work of co-creation,
For the birthing of a world where wonder is restored,
Joy is born in us once more.

Love waits for us at Advent. Love waits for us to care.
Love waits for our compassion, freely offered, fully shared.
In this time of preparation for the work of co-creation,
For the birthing of a world where faith shapes all we do,
Love is born in us anew.

BENEDICTION

SUNG BENEDICTION: No. 314 - "Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness", refrain

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Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.



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O Come, All Ye Faithful with Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

arr. Bernardine Johnson

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