

Trinity Presbyterian Church

www.trinitypresbyfairfield.org

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2020

WELCOME

THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

PRELUDE

Of the Father's Love Begotten; Plainsong melody arr. Mark Hayes

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING—Candle of Love

Brenda and Wilson Tayong

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: I knew joy, but when I heard the laugh of my child,

All: Suddenly, joy was overflowing.

One: I knew love, but when you held my hand,

All: Suddenly, love was overflowing.

One: I knew God, but when you showed me grace,

when you forgave me,

when you loved me,

when you raised me,

All: Suddenly, God was overflowing.

One: So, let us worship Holy God together

As a reminder that God is here and we are never alone.

OPENING HYMN #119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born 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!"

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born 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 God-head see; hail the incarnate Deity,

Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.

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 no more may die,

Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.

CALL TO CONFESSION

written by Rev. Tom Dunlap

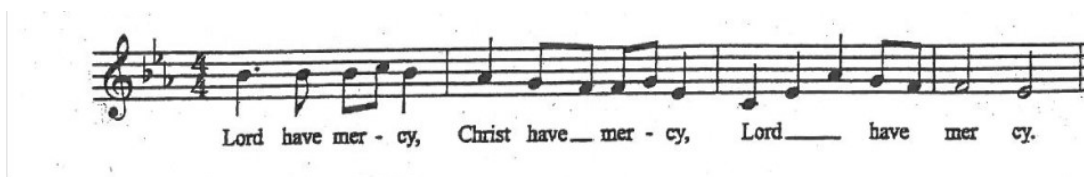
Lord, it is said that confession is good for the soul. And we do so now because we know that self-examination is vital to spiritual growth. So in that spirit, we come before you to take off the masks we have been wearing.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Good News, You say to me, “You are highly favored,” but I struggle to see how that could be. You say to me, “Do not be afraid,” but I am afraid all the time. You say to me, “Even the impossible is possible, just look at Elizabeth!” But hope slips through my hands like water. The impossible still feels impossible. So today I pray, Today we pray: Teach us to sing like Mary. Teach us to lead like David. Teach us to trust like the angels. Forgive us when we give up without trying. Amen.

Minute of Silent Personal Confession *Let us sing to the Lord...*

KYRIE—ALL SING



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

written by Rev. Tom Dunlap

Do not equate Divine love with human love. God’s love is unconditional and always available to everyone. Ask and you will receive. **We are asking, Lord. Thank You. Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

*Angels We Have Heard on High; We Three Kings; We Wish You a Merry Christmas
The Trinity Bell Choir*

OLD TESTAMENT READING: II Samuel 7:1-3

Psalm 89:1-5

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Luke 1:26-38

SERMON

Test of Courage

Rev. Tom Dunlap

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

HYMN #143

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

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

Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the new-born King!

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

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great desire of nations; you have seen His natal star:

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe that this world is hard—
Harder than it has to be.
When the world falls apart around us,
We believe in church families,
And in the love that extends beyond family.
We believe in friendships,
In neighbors,
And in leaning on each other when the going gets tough.
We believe in the Triune God—
Lover, Beloved, and Love itself—
Inherently relational, always connected, and never alone.
We believe that that same belovedness exists for us.
We believe that we are loved and claimed,
Never alone.
Thanks be to God for a love like that.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

MOMENT FOR MISSION

CLOSING HYMN # 134

Joy to the World

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room, and heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns: let us our songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.

CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

What is This Lovely Fragrance; French carol arr. Larry Shackley

*Portion of today's liturgy are from Those Who Dream, Words for Worship for Advent-Epiphany, Year B,
"Adapted from a prayer by Sarah Are, A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org."*

Pastor

Rev. Tom Dunlap

Director of Music

Davis McKinney