

*CLOSING CAROL #147

The First Nowell

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

There's a Song in the Air by Karl Harrington arr. Fred Bock

Congregation remains seated

Liturgist	Debi Hess
Candle Lighters	Ken and Cindie Postell
Ushers	The Schuler Family
Director of Music	Davis McKinney
Co Pastor	Rev. Kate Mauch

Bolded words are read by the congregation. *Indicates please stand as you are able.

Welcome: to all who worship with us this morning, especially our visitors! If you have a joy or concern that you would like to share with the congregation, please use the yellow card in the pew pocket and place it in the offering plate. These will be shared with the congregation during our “Joys and Concerns.”

We hope you feel at home at Trinity, and that you will join us again. We invite you to consider becoming part of our church family.

Portions of today's liturgy *Portion of today's liturgy are from Close to Home, Words for Worship for Advent-Epiphany, Year C, “Adapted from a prayer by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed, A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org.”*

Trinity Presbyterian Church



www.trinitypresbyfairfield.org
4th Sunday of Advent
December 19, 2021 10:15 AM

Worship leaders in plain type/ Congregation in bold type

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

GATHERING MUSIC *March of the Kings with Une Jeune Pucelle: French carols
arr. Larry Shackley*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you!

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING—Love

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

We are seeking—
deeper faith, a place to belong, the feeling that God is here in this room.
We are seeking—
**joy that overflows, the movement of the Spirit,
a hand to hold, when alone in the dark.**
We are seeking—
**the freedom to be, the courage to love,
the conviction to act in the face of injustice.**
We are seeking, but here in this space, ...
God is here. We are found. Amen.

***OPENING CAROL #113**

Angels We Have Heard on High

CALL TO CONFESSION

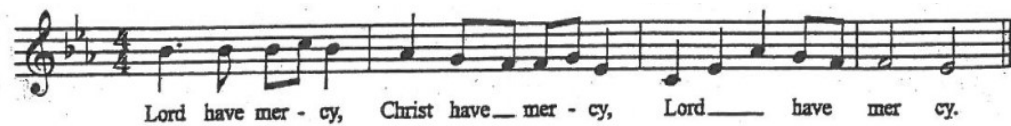
Mary's world turned upside down with the visit of an angel. This is a moment we can relate to, because over the course of the last year and a half, our world has seemed to turn upside down more than once. When those moments come, we hope to respond with grace; but more often than not, fear can get the best of us. So today we turn to God in prayer, asking for God's guidance and grace in the places and moments we need it most. Let us pray together now...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of safe spaces, we wish we were more like Mary, who in the face of great change, went and sought help. She did not wait for help to find her; she walked to the shelter she needed. Too often we wait silently for the world to change around us instead of speaking up for the things we need. Forgive us for failing to care for ourselves the way you would care for us. Give us the courage to be more like Mary. God of safe places, we wish we were more like Elizabeth, who greeted Mary with laughter and contagious joy. How many people have crossed our doorstep and how many times have we failed to see them? Give us the courage of Mary, and the grace of Elizabeth. Gratefully we pray, Amen.

MINUTE OF SILENT PERSONAL CONFESSION *Let us sing to the Lord...*

KYRIE—All Sing



ASSURANCE OF PARDON— Family of faith, even if we miss the person standing on our doorstep, even if we fail to care for ourselves the way God would care for us, ... God still loves us. There is nothing we can do to lose God's love. Rest in this promise: If we get lost, we will be found. If we mess up, we are forgiven.... We are claimed, loved, forgiven. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

ANTHEM *(See insert for lyrics to sing along)*

*Christmas Carol Medley
Trinity Bell Choir*

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PROCESSIONAL HYMN #591

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!

CHILDREN'S MOMENT *Children's Sermon*

(The children will be dismissed to Children's Church after the Children's Moment.)

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Jesus Loves the Little Children

Jesus loves the little children, All the children of the world.
Red, and yellow, black, and white, They are precious in His sight,
Jesus loves the little children of the world.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, we come to your Scripture today hoping that it will feel a bit like an open door, like Elizabeth welcoming Mary, ... this good news is just too good to keep inside.... Open the door to our hearts so that we might find sanctuary in your words. Gratefully we pray, **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 1:39-55

SERMON

Seeking Sanctuary

Rev. Kate Mauch

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*CAROL #128

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Col. 1:15-20

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible.

All things have been created through him and for him.

He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn of the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.

*DOXOLOGY Hymn #609

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, in Jesus fully known:
Praise God, all creatures high and low Creator, Word, and Spirit one.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Good and gracious God, We give these gifts for the seekers... for those who need sanctuary or for those who build sanctuaries. We give these gifts for those who have lost sanctuary, ... or who find sanctuary all over the place. Use these gifts to bring us closer to home. With joy and hope in our hearts we pray, **Amen.**

JOYS AND CONCERNS

CALL TO PRAYER — Hymn #471 *(verse 1)*

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (DEBT, DEBTORS)

OPENING CAROL #113

Angels We Have Heard on High

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

Glo - r - ia in excelsis Deo, Glo - r - ia in excelsis Deo.

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

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the new-born King.

RESPONSE CAROL #128

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Infant holy, infant lowly
For his bed a cattle stall
Oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ, the babe is Lord of all
Swift are winging, angels singing
Noels ringing, tidings bringing
Christ, the babe is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
Vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, heard the story
Tidings of a gospel true
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
Praises voicing greet the morrow:
Christ, the babe was born for you!
Christ, the babe was born for you!

CLOSING CAROL #147

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 a 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.

And by the light of the 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.

This star drew nigh to the northwest;
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
And there it did both stop and stay,
Right over the place where Jesus lay.

***ANTHEM CHRISTMAS CAROL MEDLEY**

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 newborn king!

All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To the 'ternal Three in One:
Come and worship,
Come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn king!

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Oh little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

***ANTHEM CHRISTMAS CAROL MEDLEY (*continued*)**

In the Bleak Midwinter

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.

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.

Good Christian Friends Rejoice

Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born to day!
Christ is born today!
Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door,
and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!