

∞ ORDER OF WORSHIP ∞

December 19, 2021 • 10:30 a.m.
Fourth Sunday of Advent

*“God whispered, and a silence fell; the world poised one expectant moment
Like a soul who sees at heaven’s threshold the unfurled white wings
Of cherubim and the sea imperaled – and pauses, dazed, to comprehend the
whole, when out of space God’s whisper came
And burned the virgin’s heart like some hot, white flame.”
-- Theodosia Garrison*

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Leader: He who was born in a stable,

People: Has promised us a mansion in His Father’s house.

Leader: He who was raised in the home of a carpenter,

People: Shall one day remake the heavens and the earth.

Leader: He who lived to teach us the meaning of life,

People: Is writing deep within our hearts the commandment of love.

Leader: He who was servant of all, even to death,

People: Declares to us now, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me; remember, I am with you always, even to the end of the world” (Matt. 28:18).

Leader: Together let us praise the Savior, Jesus Christ.

CONFESSION OF SIN (unison)

We come to You, O God, recognizing the many worldly concerns which preoccupy our time and thoughts. We confess that too often we have focused on trivial things to the exclusion of any thought of You. Help us to recognize that You are the source and sustainer of all, that You and Your kingdom should always be first in our thoughts and hearts. As we worship in Your house this morning, grant us anew an awareness and vision of You. (moment for silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (responsive)

Leader: Hear the good news: who is in a position to condemn?

People: Only Christ, and Christ died for us, rose for us, and reigns in power for us.

Leader: Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.

People: The old life has gone; a new life has begun.

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

People: In Christ we are restored and forgiven.

*GLORIA PATRI Hymn No. 622

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

Will Merrill, Christi LaPlant, Carol LaPlant

ANTHEM “A Virgin Unspotted” William Billings

MESSAGE: "Journey to Bethlehem: Follow the Star"

First Verse of:

O Come, All Ye Faithful	#145
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel	#123
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus	#124
What Child Is This ?	#137
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing	#133
Go, Tell It on the Mountain	#138

All verses:

Joseph’s Song	(In green folder)
Joy to the World	#125

OFFERING

*Doxology Hymn No. 625

Dedication of Offering

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND SUPPLICATION

THE LORD’S PRAYER (in unison)

CHORAL BENEDICTION “Lo, How a Rose, E’er Blooming) v.1
Michael Praetorius

POSTLUDE

* Those who are able, please stand

Welcome to our church today!

If you are a visitor, thank you for coming to worship with us. We invite you to fill out a Welcome Card, which you will find in the hymnal book holder in the pew .

Please join us in friendship and a chance to say hello after the service. Let us know how we can assist you.

Christmas Joy

The Christmas Joy Offering opens doors of opportunity for the leaders who are shaped and supported through our gifts - doors that lead to hopeful futures for young people at Presbyterian related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Our gifts open doors that lead to relief for church workers and their families when emergency needs arise. Please see insert for details.

Coffee Hour

The Church Life Committee is officially offering Coffee Hour the second Sunday of each month. The sign-up board for the Committee's Coffee hour is located on the blue board next to the kitchen. Casual Coffees, not the Committee Coffee Hours, can be provided other Sundays by anyone willing to do just a beverage and stay long enough to clean up and lock doors. The Casual sign-up sheet is next to the Deacon's card. "Casual" Chairperson, please invite someone to help you with the coffee-hour tasks.

Office Hours

The office hours of Pastor Jim Hicks, temporary pastor, are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 9 a.m.-12 noon.
Pastor Jim Hicks – 607-898-5201- hicksjam@verizon.net

Advent Bible Study

Join us for "O Night Divine" Bible study! Each day you will spend just three minutes to experience a more prayerful heart as you prepare for our Savior's birth. You are invited to gather with others to talk about the devotions on December 22, at 7 p.m. The devotional booklet will be mailed to you. The gathering will be entirely on Zoom; join via your computer, tablet, or smartphone by clicking this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/258715232pwd=ZDVYbzFvRIYzMW15OWRkRHpqQnk5UT09>

Mitten Tree

The decorations on our mitten tree are donated to needy Dryden school children. When you are shopping, please remember to purchase a warm hat or mittens to hang on the tree.

For Prayer:

Dave and Kathlene Gross, Bob Sincerbeaux,
Jim Krebs

Friday, December 24 - Christmas Eve Service 7:00 p.m.
Scripture: Matthew 2:1-6, 9-11
Sermon: "A Light Along the Way"

Sunday, December 26 - First Sunday after Christmas
Scripture: Luke 2:21-33
Sermon: "Holding on to Christmas"

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.

Text: *Gloria Patri*; Traditional, 2nd century
Music: *Meineke*, Christoph Meineke

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Verse 1:
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!

Text: Latin Hymn; ascribed to Joh Francis Wade, translated by Frederick Oakeley
Music: *Adeste Fideles*, by John Francis Wade

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Verse 1:
O Come, O Come Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

Text: Latin Hymn, Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, 1710;
Translated by John M. Neale, stanzas 1, 2, altered;
Henry S. Coffin, stanzas 3, 4, altered
Music: Adapted from Plainsong by Thomas Helmore; arranged by Tom Fettke
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Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Verse 1:
Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of ev'ry nation,
Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Text: Charles Wesley
Music: *Hyfrydol* by Rowland H. Prichard, arr by Robert Harkness

What Child Is This?

Verse 1:

What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?

Refrain:

This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
This, this is Christ the King,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Text: William C. Dix

Music: *Greensleeves*, Traditional English melody, 16th century

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Verse 1:

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King."

Text: Charles Wesley, altered

Music: *Mendelssohn*, Felix Mendelssohn, arranged by William H. Cummings

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain:

Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born.

Verse 1:

While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light.

Refrain

Text: Traditional Spiritual, stanzas written by John W. Work II

Music: *Go Tell It*, Traditional Spiritual

Doxology

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

Text: Thomas Ken

Music: Old Hundredth, Genevan Psalter, 1551; attributed to Louis Bourgeois

Joseph's Song

Verse 1:

How could it be? This baby in my arms,
Sleeping now, so peacefully
The Son of God the angel said.
How could it be?

Verse 2:

Lord, I know He's not my own.
Not of my flesh, not of my bones.
Still, Father, let this baby be
The Son of my love.

Bridge:

Father, show me where I fit into this plan of Yours.
How can a man be father to the Son of God?
Lord, for all my life I've been a simple carpenter.
How can I raise a King, how can I raise a King?

Verse 3:

He looks so small, His face and hands so fair.
And when He cries, the sun just seems to disappear.
But when He laughs, it shines again.
How could it be?

Bridge

Verse 1

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Joy to the World!

Verse 1:

Joy to the world! The Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry 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.

Verse 2:

Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns;
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Verse 3:

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.

Verse 4:

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.

Text: Isaac Watts
Music: Antioch by George Frederick Handel, arr by Lowell Mason