**Christmas Eve Worship**

**Thursday, December 24th 2020**

**PRELUDE**  *The First Noel*

Piano: Roger Halvorson; Guitar: Brian Madigan

**WELCOME**

**CAROL** *Angels We Have Heard on High* #289

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,**

**and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?**

**What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav’nly song?**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;**

**come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king.**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**GREETING**

The grace and peace of our Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit fill you with peace and joy!

**And also for you.**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

On the eve of Jesus’ birth, we light all of the candles of the Advent wreath: HOPE because Jesus is our hope, PEACE because Jesus is our peace, JOY because Jesus is our joy, and LOVE because Jesus is love. Today we light the center candle, the CHRIST candle. Jesus is born! Jesus has come! Jesus is our salvation! Hear a reading from Galatians 4: *But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman…*

**SPECIAL MUSIC** *Greensleeves/In the Bleak Midwinter*

Violin: Maggie Fitzpatrick; cello: Claudia Fitzpatrick

**PRAYER**

Let us pray: **God incarnate, you come again to us on this blessed night, to take our form and live among us. Bring us to awe and wonder before your holy nativity and be born anew in our hearts. Amen**

**FIRST LESSON** Isaiah 9:2-7

Word of God, Word of life. **Thanks be to God!**

**PSALM HYMN**  *Earth and All Stars #*731

**Earth and all stars! Loud rushing planets! Sing to the Lord a new song!**

**Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blowing snowstorm!**

**REFRAIN: Sing to the Lord a new song! God has done marvelous things.**

**I too sing praises with a new song!**

**Trumpet and pipes! Loud clashing cymbals! Sing to the Lord a new song!**

**Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud humming cellos! REFRAIN**

**Engines and steel! Loud pounding hammers! Sing to the Lord a new song!**

**Limestone and beams! Loud building workers! REFRAIN**

**Classrooms and labs! Loud boiling test tubes! Sing to the Lord a new song!**

**Athlete and band! Loud cheering people! REFRAIN**

**Knowledge and truth! Loud sounding wisdom! Sing to the Lord a new song!**

**Daughter and son! Loud praying members! REFRAIN**

**GOSPEL** Luke 2: 1-20

Word of God, Word of Life! **Thanks be to God!**

**THE CHRISTMAS STORY TOLD WITH YOUR HELP**

Really good: Thumbs up 

Shepherds: Hold a hand to your forehead to shield your eyes, look into the distance, and say ‘Baa’ 

Wise men: Stroke your chin wisely and say ‘hmmm’ 

Mary: Pretend to cradle and rock a baby in your arms and say ‘Mary’ 

Joseph: Hands up and shout ‘Joseph’ 

Angel: Wave hands above head and sing a holy ‘ahhh’ 

And every time you hear one of us say: “And the angel said,” you will respond, **“I bring you good news! It’s really good (**Thumbs up ) **– honest! A baby will be born just as God promised.”**

**CAROL** *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came #267(v.1)*

**The angel Gabriel from heaven came, with wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:**

**"All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary, most highly favored lady." Gloria!**

**CAROL** *Away in a Manger* #277

**Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;**

**the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.**

**I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray.**

**Bless all the dear children in your tender care and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.**

**CAROL** *We Three Kings* *of Orient Are*  (verse 1)

**We three kings of Orient are Bearing gifts we traverse afar  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain Following yonder star.**

**Oh, star of wonder, star of night Star with royal beauty bright  
Westward leading, still proceeding Guide us to thy perfect light**

**CAROL** *Joy to the World* #267

**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.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their 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 sin and sorrow grown or 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.**

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Glory to God in the highest,

**and peace to God's people on earth.**

Blessed are you, Prince of Peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.

**Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.**

Blessed are you, Wonderful Counselor. You enlighten the heart with steadfast love.

**Enliven your church that it might bear good tidings of great joy to all people.**

Blessed are you, Emmanuel. You promise to be with us even to the end of the age.

**Open our eyes to see your presence in all who are hungry, lonely, or homeless.**

Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.

**Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.**

Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

**Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world.**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. *tune*: *Adeste Fideles*

**And with you, his servant.**

Oh, come, let us lift our hearts unto the Lord.

**With hearts uplifted Thanks to him we render;**

**With joy we come before him, In gratefulness implore him,**

**With thankful hearts adore him evermore!**

(Lift your bread) In the night in which Jesus was betrayed, he took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

(Lift your cup) Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

(Lift both bread and cup) For as often as you eat this bread and drink from this cup, you remember me.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord! God of hosts, by all adored!** *tune:* *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!*

**Heav’n and earth cannot contain All the glory of your name!**

**Hail, hosanna, God most high! Blest is he who now draws nigh**

**In the name of God the King! Hallelujahs glad we sing;**

**Hail, hosanna! Praises due Be forever, Lord to you!**

**\*LORD’S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

The Word is revealed in a manger, in simple bread and wine. We meet Jesus, who is the Christ in this meal. Please share in the meal with your family at this time.

**COMMUNION MUSIC**

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray: **We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us from your very self with the body and blood of Christ. Through this mystery, send us out to proclaim your promise to a world in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and friend.** **Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**

Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the shepherds with good news, and led the magi by a star, bless you this day ☩ through the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

**CAROL *Jesus, What a Wonderful Child* #297**

**Jesus, Jesus, oh, what a wonderful child. Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek, and mild;**

**new life, new hope the child will bring.**

**Listen to the angels sing: "Glory, glory, glory," let the heavens ring!** (repeat)

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Stay safe and be safe. Share the gift of Jesus. **Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE**