



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Fourth Sunday of Advent
20 December 2020 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Voluntary

Variations on *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

William Faulkes

*Ringing of the Bell

The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.

*Lighting of the Fourth Advent
Candle and Call to Worship

Deborah Fritsch and Tara Fritsch

People of God, come, for the light of life is upon us.
The light shines in the darkness.
People of God, come, for the love of God is with us.
And the darkness has not overcome it.

Soloist: O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

We light this candle as a symbol of the gift of God's love,
for the Lord has promised good things to us.
God will turn our shame to praise,
and all our sorrow to joy.

Soloist: O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

People of God, come, worship the Lord!

The fourth Advent candle is lit.

*Hymn

My Soul Cries Out

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?
My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past to end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.
My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread; every mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn.

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around.
My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

***Prayer of Confession**

Rev. Trajan I. McGill

Holy and Loving God, we gather in reverence and awe, seeking to prepare our hearts for your coming. On our journey to the Christ child, help us to discover the hidden part within that is fearful, lonely, tired, and unable to see you in the circumstances of our lives. Heal our wounded spirits and renew our strength. Hear now our silent prayers of confession.

***Sung Response**

Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us

***Declaration of Pardon**

Friends, believe the good news: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
The peace of Christ be with you. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Response of Praise

Gloria Patri

Sacrament of Baptism

Natalie Bomke and Ed Swiderski present their daughter, Olive Mae.

Baptismal Response

Waterlife

I was there to hear your borning cry; I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold.
When you heard the wonder of the Word, I was there to cheer you on.
You were raised to praise the living Lord to whom you now belong:
I was there to hear your borning cry; I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold.

First Scripture Reading

Luke 1:47-55

Rev. Christian K. Choi

My spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for God has looked with favor on the lowliness of God's servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me and holy is God's name. God's mercy is for those who fear God from generation to generation. God has shown strength with God's arm; God has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. God has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; God has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. God has helped God's servant Israel in remembrance of God's mercy, according to the promise God made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.

Music

Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella

17th Century French Carol

Second Scripture Reading

Luke 1:26-38

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of

the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Sermon Much Perplexed Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Text: But Mary was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Luke 1:29

Music In the Bleak Midwinter Gustav Holst, Simon Lole, arr.

In the bleak mid-winter, 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 mid-winter, 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 mid-winter a stable place sufficed
 the Lord God incarnate, Almighty 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.

The Church at Prayer Trio: Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,
 I can feel his mighty power and his grace.
 I can hear the brush of angels' wings
 I see glory on each face;
 Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

The Lord's Prayer Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Introduction to the Offering

Offertory Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day Traditional English Carol

***Offertory Response** Doxology

***Prayer of Dedication** Holy God, your love is magnified in the gift of your Son, whom you freely share with us. Bless these gifts that we offer to lift up the lowly and fill the hungry in your coming reign of justice and peace; in Christ's name. Amen.

***Hymn** Joy to the World *Antioch*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven 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 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, and wonders of his love.

***Charge and Benediction**

Closing Response Kling, Glöcken German Carol

***Voluntary** On This Day, Earth Shall Ring David Spicer
This piece was dedicated to Dale Rogers by the composer

IN MEMORIAM
Joe D. Burgess 12/09/2020
United with Westminster 02/20/2019

IN MEMORIAM
Patrick A. Noonan 12/11/2020
United with Westminster 04/22/2012

IN MEMORIAM
Elder Dr. Robert A. Lynn 12/12/2020
United with Westminster 10/05/1997

Worship Participants

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer, Pastor and Head of Staff
Rev. Trajan I. McGill, Associate Pastor for Parish Life
Rev. Christian K. Choi, Associate Pastor for Family Ministry
Dale Rogers, Organist and Director of Music and the Arts
Karen Sherrick, Director of Children's Ministry
Deborah Fritsch and her daughter Tara Fritsch Light the Advent Candle Wreath
St. Andrew's Sisters: Julie Blythe, Amanda Neubauer, Eleanor VanDeventer
Lyle VanDeventer, bass
Elsie and Bob Fox, Videographers
Rich Canady, Safety Team