



Sunday, December 22, 2024
Fourth Sunday of Advent

ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE

During the Prelude, you are invited to meditate on the Psalm of the Day as you prepare your heart and mind for worship.

PRELUDE

Christmas Medley - Part I

Freya Bergholz, Harp
Sebastian Bergholz, Piano

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 119:1-3

Blessed are those whose ways are blameless,
who walk according to the law of the Lord.

Blessed are those who keep his statutes
and seek him with all their heart—
they do no wrong
but follow his ways.

WELCOME AND GATHERING PRAYER

Rev. Mark van Stee

INTROIT

Procession "Hodie Christus natus est" from *A Ceremony of Carols* IPC Singers
Music: Benjamin Britten (1913-1976) Chandler Cudlipp, Director

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

Dana Rahbani & Caleb Leung

***HYMN OF PRAISE #23 "Angels We Have Heard on High"**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

People: We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior, Jesus Christ, came among us in great humility, will sanctify us with the light of his blessing and set us free from all sin.

People: There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Amen. (based on Romans 8)

GOD'S WILL FOR OUR LIVES

Leader: Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said:

“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

People: For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. (Mark 8:34-35)

***GLORIA PATRI #579** “Glory Be to the Father”

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (CHORAL)

“Speak, Lord in the Stillness”

IPC Singers

Music: Harold Green; Text: E. May Grimes

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Ruth 1:1-18 (p. 267)

Ingrid Käser

MEDITATION

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

IPC Singers

Music: Gustav Holst (1874-1934); Text: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Matthew 4:18-22 (p. 968)

SERMON

“Females Who Foreshadowed:

Rev. Mark van Stee

What Ruth Suggests to Us about Jesus, The Messiah”

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

***HYMN OF RESPONSE (INSERT)** “How Great Our Joy”

PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Dennis Kuriakose, Elder
for Morning Worship

OFFERTORY

Christmas Medley - Part II

Freya Bergholz, Harp
Sebastian Bergholz, Piano

***DOXOLOGY #592** “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*in unison in English or the language of your choice*)

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

GOING WITH GOD'S MISSION AND BLESSING

WELCOMING OF GUESTS

Dennis Kuriakose

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***HYMN OF DEDICATION #22** "Angels from the Realms of Glory"

***SENDING AND PASTORAL BENEDICTION**

Rev. Mark van Stee

CHORAL BENEDICTION

"Alleluia!" from the Recession from *A Ceremony of Carols*

IPC Singers

Music: Benjamin Britten

POSTLUDE

Little Fugue no 8 in B flat Major BWV 560
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 - 1750)

Ruth Pfister, Organ

Please remain quietly seated during the postlude. If you need to leave, please do so quietly.

****Please stand if you are able.***

Today's bulletin cover features English artist William Blake's Naomi Entreating Ruth and Orpah to Return to the Land of Moab (1795). According to one art historian: "The artwork portrays a dramatic scene rooted in biblical narrative, featuring three figures, Naomi, Ruth, and Orpah, set against a stark and barren landscape. Naomi, an elder woman with a somber expression, extends her hand imploringly, beseeching her daughters-in-law to return to Moab. Ruth, depicted with a luminous and devoted countenance, clings to Naomi's side, signifying her loyalty and determination to stay with her. Conversely, Orpah, shown in a posture of departure with a sorrowful face, walks away from Naomi, indicating her decision to return to her homeland. The background, with its sparse hills under a moody sky, underscores the profound emotional gravity of the moment. The restrained palette and emotive delineation are characteristic of Blake's symbolic and visionary style, conveying the depth of commitment, sorrow, and the pivotal nature of choice in human relationships."