

MORNING WORSHIP CELEBRATION

The Lord's Day – Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023

10:30 a.m.

Welcome & Announcements: Travis Skillingsstad

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Prelude: Olivia Bellefeuille, piano

Silent Night

Arranged by Margaret Goldston

Call to Worship: Psalm 95:1-3

Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

² Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! ³ For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

The Invocation

Hymn of Praise 208

O Come, All Ye Faithful

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;

Chorus

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

Christ the Lord.

God of God, Light of Light;

Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;

Very God, begotten, not created; (chorus)

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above:

Glory to God in the highest; (chorus)

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;

Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;

Word of the Father, late in flesh appearing; (chorus)

Confession of Sin: Pastor Mike Palombo

Need of Confession: Romans 8:12-13

¹² So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

Personal Confession of Sin

Corporate Confession of Sin (Unison)

You who called forth light, forgive our preference for the dark! You who sent John to be voice crying, forgive our unwillingness to say anything at all! Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon: Romans 8:14-15

¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"

Affirmation of Faith: Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 35

Pastor: What does it mean that He "was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary"?

People: **That the eternal Son of God, who is and remains true and eternal God, took to Himself, through the working of the Holy Spirit, from the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary, a truly human nature so that He might also become David's true descendant, like His brothers and sisters in every way except for sin.**

Song of Praise 207

Good Christian Men, Rejoice

Good Christian men, rejoice,
With heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
Earth and heav'n before him bow,
And he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice,
With heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door
And man is blessed forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, 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!

The Lord's Prayer (Unison) / Pastoral 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.

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: Chancel Choir

Celebrate the Promise

By Joseph Martin

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Sermon Series: The Gospel of Luke: Love Came Down *An Unexpected Guest: Luke 1:5-25* **Pastor Jeff Birch**

⁵ In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶ And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. ⁷ But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.

⁸ Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, ⁹ according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰ And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. ¹¹ And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. ¹³ But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. ¹⁴ And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. ¹⁶ And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, ¹⁷ and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared."

¹⁸ And Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." ¹⁹ And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰ And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time." ²¹ And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. ²² And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute. ²³ And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

²⁴ After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, ²⁵ "Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people."

Hymn 224

Go, Tell It on the Mountain
(Chorus)

Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching
O're silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light. *(Chorus)*

The shepherds feared and trembled when,
Lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth. *(Chorus)*

Down in a lowly manger
Our humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn. *(Chorus)*

Benediction

Postlude

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