

MORNING WORSHIP CELEBRATION
The Lord's Day – Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 24, 2023
10:30 a.m.

Welcome & Announcements: Travis Skillingsstad

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Prelude: Amy Reber, piano

Call to Worship: Psalm 89:1-4

I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever;
with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.
² For I said, "Steadfast love will be built up forever;
in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness."
³ You have said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant:
⁴ "I will establish your offspring forever,
and build your throne for all generations.'"

The Invocation

Hymn of Praise 218

Angels, from the Realms of Glory
Angels, from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth;

(Chorus)

Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

Shepherds in the fields abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing,
Yonder shines the infant Light: (Chorus)

Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations;
Ye have seen his natal star: (Chorus)

Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In his temple shall appear; (Chorus)
All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son;
Evermore your voices raising
To th'eternal Three in One: (Chorus)

Confession of Sin: Pastor Mike Palombo

Need of Confession: Isaiah 64:6

⁶ We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away, ...

Personal Confession of Sin

Corporate Confession of Sin (Unison)

Lord God, our lives are filled with sin. We forget our neighbor's needs and do not love you above else. We need a Savior. Help us to be ready for Jesus in our own hearts. O come, O come, Savior of the world. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon: Isaiah 53:4-6

⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Affirmation of Faith Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 36

Pastor: How does the holy conception and birth of Christ benefit you?

People: **He is our mediator, and with his innocence and perfect holiness he removes from God's sight my sin - mine since I was conceived.**

Song of Praise 204

Away In a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a 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 thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my cradle, till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

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

A Christmas Proclamation

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* *A World Changing Announcement: Luke 1:26-38* Pastor Jeff Birch

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name 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 father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ And the angel answered 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 called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Hymn 214

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply,
Echo back their joyous strains.

(Chorus)

Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song? (Chorus)

Come to Bethlehem, and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. (Chorus)

Benediction

Postlude