

WORSHIPPING GOD

December 19, 2021

“Close to Home”

Fourth Sunday of Advent

**We invite those who are able to stand*

+Childcare is available for children 3 and under. Worship boxes are available for older children in the narthex.

Welcoming Music

Chiming of the Trinity

*Three chimes are sounded, awakening us to the presence of God,
alerting us to the voice of Christ, centering us in the embrace of the Spirit.*

Call to Worship.....Sing We Now of Jesus.....Michael Burkhardt
CBC Ensemble with Bells

Invitation to Worship.....Dan Koger

*Hymn #182.....O Come, All Ye Faithful.....arr. David Willcocks
Led by the CBC Ensemble

*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;*

Refrain:

*O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.*

*Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;*

*Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;*

*Passing of the Peace.....Kim Miller
May the peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you!**

Old Testament Reading (Malachi 5:2-4, pew bible p. 708).....Kim Miller

As for you, Bethlehem of Ephrathah, though you are the least significant of Judah's forces, one who is to be a ruler in Israel on my behalf will come out from you. His origin is from remote times, from ancient days. Therefore, he will give them up until the time when she who is in labor gives birth. The rest of his kin will return to the people of Israel. He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. They will dwell secure.

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Christmas Doxology (sung to the tune of “O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree”)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow, in every generation.
Praise God, all creatures here below, who gives to us salvation.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Let all creation praise the Lord with love and adoration.**

Lighting the Candles of Advent – the Candle of Love.....Lori Poston and Kara Miller

God’s love is like an open door.

God’s love is the streetlight that guides us home.

God’s love is a warm bed to fall into.

God’s love is a table with room for you.

God’s love is a crackling fireplace.

God’s love is the sun that streams through the windows.

God’s love is the roof over our heads and the floor beneath our feet.

God’s love is a home for you and me, for neighbors and strangers, for family and friends, for enemies and partners.

God’s love is a home for all.

Today we light the candle of love to remind us of this truth.

May it burn brightly in this space and even brighter in our hearts.

Amen.

Congregational Response – “We Lift the Light of Love”

**We lift the light of love, O God,
Your candle in our night.
You come to give and help us live
The mighty love of Christ.
You come to give and help us live
The mighty love of Christ.**

Gospel Reading (Luke 1:39-55, pew bible pp. 779-780).....Ariel Koger

Mary got up and hurried to a city in the Judean highlands. She entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth. 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. With a loud voice she blurted out, “God has blessed you above all women, and he has blessed the child you carry. Why do I have this honor, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy. Happy is she who believed that the Lord would fulfill the promises he made to her.”

Mary said, “With all my heart I glorify the Lord! In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my savior. He has looked with favor on the low status of his servant. Look! From now on, everyone will consider me highly favored because the mighty one has done great things for me.

Holy is his name.

He shows mercy to everyone, from one generation to the next, who honors him as God. He has shown strength with his arm. He has scattered those with arrogant thoughts and proud inclinations. He has pulled the powerful down from their thrones and lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty-handed. He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, remembering his mercy, just as he promised to our ancestors, to Abraham and to Abraham’s descendants forever.”

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Anthem.....Wexford Carol.....John Purifoy
CBC Ensemble

Morning Prayer.....Kim Miller

Hymn #203.....Away in a Manger

Led by the CBC Ensemble

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
The stars in the 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 side until 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 the there.*

Visual Reflection – “The Magnificat”

Sermon.....“Seeking Sanctuary”.....Dan Koger

Musical Reflection.....The First Noel.....arr. Dan Forest
Tim Price, Piano

*Hymn #188.....Angels We Have Heard on High
Led by the CBC Ensemble

*Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.*

Refrain:

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?*

*Come to Bethlehem, and see him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.*

*Sending and Blessing.....Dan Koger

*Congregational Response..... “Prince of Peace”

**Make our hearts your throne, Prince of Peace.
Make our lives your own, Prince of Peace.
May our joy increase and our striving cease,
as we rest in you, Prince of Peace.**

*Postlude.....Fum, Fum, Fum.....Mark Hayes
Timothy Price, Organ

Please see insert with poinsettia dedications.

+Childcare Volunteers for Dec. 19th: Lynne and Randy Robinson