

December 24, 2023



Trinity Presbyterian Church

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Trinity Presbyterian Church

10:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 24, 2023

Processional

Welcome and Announcements

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

Greet one another with the Peace of Christ

“The Peace of Christ be with you.”

“And also with you.”

Preparation for Worship

Audrey Hepburn

Nothing is impossible. The word itself says "I'M POSSIBLE!"

Prelude

O Little Town of Bethlehem

The Presbyterones

Introit

While We Are Waiting, Come

Call to Worship

Rhonda VanDyke Colby

One: In this season of mystery,

All: Let us watch for God's surprises!

One: Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

All: The ordinary will encounter the extraordinary.

One: And something...

All: Something extra ordinary will happen.

One: Watch!

***Hymn of Praise #41**

O Come All Ye Faithful

Candle Lighting Liturgy

Rosie and Justin Bell

One: We are those who are making a journey

All: We travel through life, accompanied by faith, in search of the living God.

One: In this season of Advent, we journey to a humble stable in long-ago Bethlehem.

All: And so we light these candles as a step on the journey, an act of hope and faith. Let us worship God, our companion on the journey.

Lighting of the Advent Candles

***Light an Advent Candle**

Becki Slagle Mayo

**Advent is a time of hope, of waiting for the light
To lead us to the promised One to break the dark of night.**

Light a candle, our Messiah will come.

Light a candle, for the Promised One.

Advent is a time of peace, the ancient prophets tell.

A King will be born in Bethlehem, our Lord, Emmanuel.

Light a candle, our Messiah will come.

Light a candle, for the Promised One.

Advent is a time of joy, of looking for the star.

Just as the wise men long ago, followed from afar.

Light a candle, our Messiah will come.

Light a candle, for the Promised One.

**Advent is a time of love,
as we await Christ's birth.**

**The Prince of Peace, Emmanuel,
will bring God's love to earth.**

Light a candle, light a candle of hope.

Light a candle, light a candle of joy.

Light a candle, our Messiah will come.

Call to Confession

One: Lord of endless love and wondrous power, you are able to do more than we can ever ask or think. You can even forgive all of our sins and give us a new fresh start this season. Let us with faith in God's power and love confess our sins.

Prayer of Confession

One: God of surprises, we pretend not to hear your messengers calling our names.

All: We look away, sure that there must be a mistake,

One: for we are afraid to believe that you would trust us to bear your good news into the world.

All: We are just ordinary people. We wish you would choose someone else.

One: Have mercy on us, O God. Help us believe with Mary.

All: Send your Spirit upon us, that we may indeed live for the Advent of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior.

Take time to offer silent prayers of confession.

Assurance of Forgiveness

From Luke 1:28-38

One: The angel Gabriel said to Mary, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." God meets us where we are.

All: And calls us, just as we are, ordinary people yet called by God to be bearers of grace and peace.

One: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and set free to believe with Mary.

All: And say our own, "Here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."

*Gloria #23 (refrain only)

Angels We Have Heard on High

Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo

Anthem

Et in Terra Pax

John Purifoy

Et in terra pax, and on earth, peace. Et in terra pax, and on earth, peace.

Gloria in excelsis! Glory to God in the highest!

Et in terra pax, and on earth, peace.

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

And suddenly with the angels there was a multitude of the heavenly host Praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace." Et in terra pax, and on earth, peace.

Prayer for Illumination

Holy Lord, Mary heard the voice of an angel, and she listened. When we hear your voice in the words of prophecy give us a heart to listen. For with you all things are possible.

Scripture Reading Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail." "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Nothing is impossible, with God!

Larry Vilaro

***Hymn #31**

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

(music at end of bulletin)

Prayers of the People

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, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Call to Offering

Offertory

What Child Is This?

arr. Kerns

*Doxology #591

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all people here below; Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

Moira Laidlaw

Gracious God, whose glory angels sang when Christ was born, we offer these gifts with joy. Prepare us once more to hear the good news of his coming, that hearing, we may believe, and so live praising and glorifying his name through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Closing Hymn #40

Joy to the World

*Blessing

*Amen

*Postlude

Celtic Christmas Overture

arr. Shackley

**We invite all to stand in body or in spirit.*

THANK YOU

Pastor: Larry Vilaro
Music Director: Nicki Kerns
Lector: Sandy Thormann
Greeter: Lee Duffus
Usher: Pete Halper
Coffee: Mayre and Tim Vincent

Announcements

Welcome to Trinity Presbyterian Church!

We look forward to getting to know you better. Please fill out a visitor welcome card found in the pew pockets in front of you. After worship, please join us for coffee, tea, and juice in the Magnolia Courtyard. We are glad you are here!

Today we are receiving the Christmas Joy Offering

Please use the special envelop enclosed with this bulletin to make a generous gift that will assist church leaders — past, present, and future. Your donation in any amount, together with those from thousands of Presbyterian congregations across the country, will make a difference. Thank you for your thoughtful donation.

Give the Gift of Life

The annual Presbyterian Giving Catalog offers an opportunity to honor people in your life with simple holiday gifts that provide food, clean water, and means of livelihood for people in other parts of the world. This year's Catalog is available in a display in the narthex and is also accessible online through our weekly newsletter. *It's easy to make a big difference!*

Church Office Closed

The church office will be closed between December 22 and January 2. Pastor Larry is available for emergencies, 707-372-2958.



Christmas Poinsettias

In Memory of

Earle & Clare Lawton
Robert & Ann Ferguson
Tom Wichelmann
Thelma Dalman and Bob Soderholm
Sandy Leifer
Florence and Harold Baggot
Mary Jane Rutan
Bill and Joey Bear
Barbara Scott
Norbert Lauer
Blanche Koroat
Pamela Sue Halper
Our Parents
Sharen Weld, Peter & Irene Wilt
Martha and Jerry Thormann
My Brother
My Sister
Anna, Jesse, & John May
JM & Evelyn Sartain
Pat & Delores Johnston
Linda & Curtis Johnston
Grandma Bussy

In Honor of

Vickie Rutan

With Love From

Jeff & Patti Lawton
Jeff & Patti Lawton
Karen Wichelmann
Karen Wichelmann
Debbie Bates
Debbie Bates
Dan & Vickie Rutan
Dan & Vickie Rutan
Bob Scott
Esther Lauer
Esther Lauer
Pete Halper
Richard & Roberta Zakarian
Sandra & Jerry Thormann
Sandra & Jerry Thormann
Marta Narus
Marta Narus
Charlie and Gwen May
Charlie and Gwen May
Kim Johnston
Kim Johnston
Chad Bell
With Love From
Dan Rutan

31

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN 7.7.7.7 D with refrain

Felix Mendelssohn, 1840

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.

Arr. William Hayman Cummings, 1855

1. Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King.
 2. Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
 *3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!

Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of the vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all He brings, Risen with heal - ing in His wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; Hail the in-car - nate De - i - ty,
 Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that we no more may die,

With the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth-le-hem!"
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man-u-el.
Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us sec-ond birth.

Hark! The her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo-ry to the new-born King!"