

The Third Sunday of Advent
December 13, 2020

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude ~ Leigh Emmett

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle ~ *responsive*

Leader: We light the third candle of Advent.

People: We look to John, the one you sent, to point us to your light. The light will come into our world and enlighten everyone.

Leader: God sent John the Baptizer to prepare the people for the coming of Jesus Christ, the true Light of the World. John called for people to repent of their sins and to live faithfully.

People: John baptized with a cleansing water and proclaimed the new life that Christ, the one who would follow him, would bring. This Advent, we ask for God's mercy and a joyful new beginning.

Unison: Merciful God, we give thanks that you send messengers like John to call us to greater faith. We ask that in these days we prepare for you in prayer and acts of holy compassion. Forgive us and lead us to your light. Amen.

At this time you are invited to light your third Advent candle and sing...

Lighting of the third candle of Advent

Choral Response ~ *"Light One Candle"*

Light one candle for hope, one bright candle for hope,

He brings hope to ev'ry heart, He comes! He comes!

Light one candle for peace, one bright candle for peace,

He brings peace to ev'ry heart, He comes! He comes!

Light one candle for joy, one bright candle for joy

He brings joy to ev'ry heart, He comes! He comes!

Call to Worship ~ Psalm 126

Leader: When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. Our mouths were filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy!

People: The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoice. Restore our fortunes, O Lord!

Leader: May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

People: May those who go out weeping come home with shouts of joy!

Advent Prayer ~ *in unison*

Eternal God, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for the coming of your Son. Grant us the wisdom to see your purpose and openness to hear your will, that we too may prepare the way for Christ who is coming in power and glory to establish his kingdom of peace and justice; through Jesus Christ our Judge and Redeemer, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Amen.

**you are invited to stand in body or in spirit*

**Hymn #113 ~ "Angels We Have Heard on High"*

Time with children

Prayer for Illumination

Responsive Chorus #104 ~ *"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"* (v. 1)

O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright? Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight! O kindle, Lord most holy, a lamp within my breast, to do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.

Hebrew Scripture ~ Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Special Music ~ *"Jesus Christ, The Apple Tree"* (arr. S. Andrews) ~ Jim Day

Christian Scripture ~ John 1:6-8, 19-28

Message ~ *"Ah, Wilderness"*

**Hymn #136 ~ "Go, Tell It on the Mountain"*

Community at Prayer

**Invitation to Prayer #360 ~ "Christ Is Coming!"* (v. 1)

*Christ is coming! Let creation from its groans and labor cease,
let the glorious proclamation hope restore and faith increase:
Christ is coming! Christ is coming! Come, O blessed Prince of peace.*

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer ~ *in unison*

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.

*Hymn #132 - *“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”*

*Passing the Peace

*Benediction

* Choral Response #601 - *“Amen”*
Amen, Amen, Amen

Postlude

CCLI#2342595 CVLI#504305417

A Congregational Meeting is called for TODAY, immediately following the service, for the purpose of electing officers and other business as necessary. A Town Hall meeting will follow, which will provide an opportunity for a question and answer session with the church leaders.

The nominees are: Ruling Elders-Class of 2023: Ric Barsy, Jan Lapenta, and Kathy Schulz. Board of Deacons-Class of 2023: Margaret Weber. Board of Trustees-Class of 2023: Ric Barsy, Barbara DeLong, and Gary Earnley. Foundation Trustees-Class of 2021: Barbara DeLong; Class of 2025: John Lapenta. Financial Review Committee: Jim Day, John Lapenta, and Kathy VanEck. Nominations Committee: Class of 2021: Rich Sherby and Joan Velis

Thank you for your generous support of the 2020 Cookies for Crossroads project. 176 gift bags containing one dozen cookies, frosting, and sprinkles were assembled and sent to Crossroads Farm - a facility for at-risk rural youth in western Michigan. So, thanks to those who baked and to those who provided financial support for supplies. Once again, St. Paul's has joined together to bring these young people some CHRIST-mas joy!!

REMINDERS!!!

The Blue Christmas service will be held on Wednesday, December 16 at 7:00PM

PLEASE use their designated envelopes and write your checks for their Advent Pantry and Christmas Eve donations payable to **THE BOARD OF DEACONS**. The Board has a bank account completely separate from St. Paul's! Thank you!! The Advent Pantry donations are due by December 15 and will be acknowledged on December 20 and December 24.

If you have not yet returned your Stewardship Commitment for 2021, **PLEASE** do so as soon as possible so a working budget can be prepared, particularly in anticipation of calling a pastor.

Commitments received to date:
General Fund ~ 36 pledging units: \$91,138.00
Building Improvement Fund ~ 20 pledging units: \$16,460.00
Recent repairs to the boiler: \$3,979.59

2020 Giving Tree donations are being accepted to support Penrickton Center for Blind Children. Checks are payable to St. Paul's with "Giving Tree 2020" in the memo line. The collective donation will be sent at the end of December.

The Christmas Joy Offering will be received on December 20.

God saw the great needs of the world and offered the perfect gift, Jesus Christ. In Jesus, we receive the perfect gift of God being with us, and of being with those in need-the gift of being together when we are near, and being together when we are apart. When we give to the Christmas Joy Offering, we share our love with the leaders of our Church-past, present and future. Half of the offering goes to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions to help current and past church workers and their families in their time of critical financial need. The other half supports education and leadership development at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.



Janet Frank, Karen Bright, Sheldon Davis, Doris Knecht, Joyce Barton, Gail Artinian
Pam Phillips, Suzanne Tabaka, Jim & Joanna Roye, Nola Bonandrini, Tamar Duthie, Frank & Nancy Saunders
Jerry Stone, Beverly Dearth, Anita Falk, Kathleen Warren, Bob Liebertz, Grace Campbell, Susan Grant
Bruce Phillips, Patricia Hutchison, Linda Thompson & her sister, Shirley Kircoff
Rich McKenzie ~ son of Jean; Gloria Eberlein ~ mother of Dawn Malott; Brendan Morris ~ fiance of Kyrie Bowman
Don Potter ~ father of Don; Erin Lewis ~ daughter of Pattie Benoit; Thomas Peebles ~ friend of Jeff Graham
Phyllis Badman ~ niece of Georgia Hunt; Christie Piastowski ~ daughter of Karen Bright
Janet Kusahara ~ cousin of Meta Tulley; Joe Ducsay ~ friend of Mike & Carol Graham; Mark Osborne ~ son of Janet
Hannah Elton ~ great niece of Judy McGregor; Sarah & Mason Young ~ cousins of Judy McGregor
Bob Kortenhoeven ~ brother of a friend of Judy McGregor
Diane Calloway & Tony S. ~ cousins of Gail Artinian; MaryAnn Tabaka ~ mother of Suzanne
Eric Tabaka ~ nephew of Suzanne; Cyndi Knecht ~ daughter of Doris; Joe Perko ~ friend of Wanda & Bob Seymour
David Bonandrini ~ son of Nola & Ben; Zoe Marcus ~ friend of Karen Erwin
Gideon Janku ~ great nephew of Bob Westbrook; Judy Siegfried ~ sister-in-law of Pam Phillips
Randy Tillman ~ son of Gloria Rubbo; Leslie Benoit ~ daughter of Tamar Duthie
Mary Rayes ~ friend of Pat Hutchison; Adam Schilling & Eric Shilling ~ grandsons of Ron & Janet Frank
Donald Keller III ~ son of Jan Lapenta; Scott Davis ~ son of Sheldon & Marion Davis

Please review the prayer list and report any changes to the office as soon as possible.

113 Angels We Have Heard on High

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some ti - dings be which in - spire your heaven - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo -

This French carol probably dates from the 1700s, though it was not printed until the following century. Because it uses a vernacular language for the narrative stanzas and Latin for the refrain, it belongs to a special category called "macaronic" or mixed-language texts.

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Away in a Manger

114

Capo 5: (C) (Am) (C) (Dm)
F Dm F Gm

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the poor ba - by wakes,
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay

(F) (G) (C) (Dm) (F) (G)
B^b C F Gm B^b C

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.
close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

(C) (Dm)
F Gm

The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
I love thee, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky,
Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,

(G) (C) (Dm) (G) (C)
C F Gm C F

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.
and fit us for heav - en to live with thee there.

This anonymous carol probably originated among Pennsylvania Lutherans in the late 19th century, giving rise to a mistaken assertion that it had been written by Martin Luther. This tune is also by an American but has become the one usually used in Canada and Great Britain.

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You 104

1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you a - right?
 2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me;
 3 You come, O Lord, with glad - ness, in mer - cy and good-will,

Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!
 your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.
 to bring an end to sad - ness and bid our fears be still.

O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, a lamp with - in my breast,
 O love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace
 In pa - tient ex - pec - ta - tion we live for that great day

to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.
 in love, all loves ex - cel - ling, our lost and fal - len race.
 when your re - newed cre - a - tion your glo - ry shall dis - play.

Though many Advent hymns address Christ with entreaty and invitation, this more contemplative text considers how an individual prepares for and responds to Christ's coming. It also brings together a recollection of the First Coming with an anticipation of the Second Coming.

136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain 

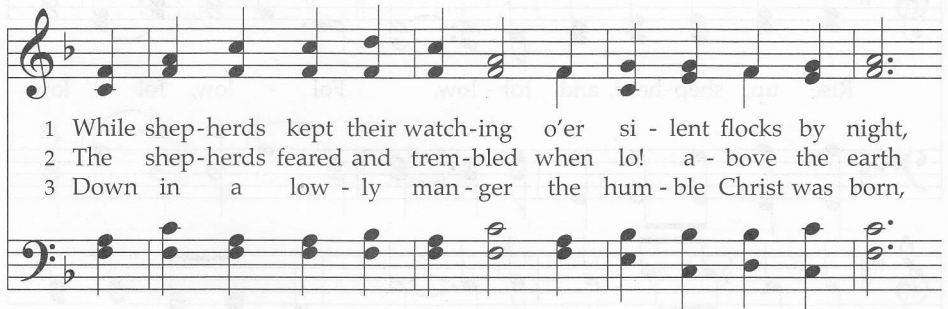


Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;

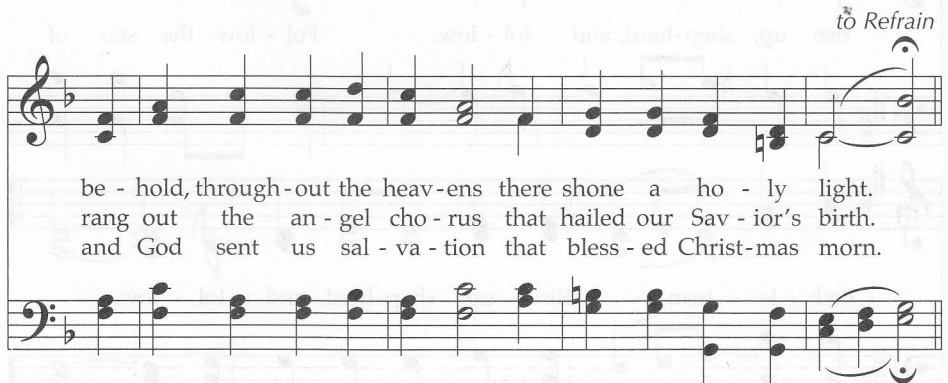


go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

Fine



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a - bove the earth
 3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,



to Refrain

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
 rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
 and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

Like other material from oral traditions, 19th-century African American spirituals flourished without being written down. Their refrains were their most stable parts, and narrative stanzas were often improvised to fit. These Nativity stanzas attempt to recall that tradition.

360

Christ Is Coming!

1 Christ is com - ing! Let cre - a - tion from its groans and
 2 Earth can now but tell the sto - ry of your bit - ter
 3 With that bless - ed hope be - fore us, flutes are tuned and
 4 Long your ex - iles have been pin - ing for your prom - ised

la - bor cease; let the glo - rious proc - la - ma - tion
 cross and pain; we shall yet be - hold your glo - ry,
 harps are strung; let the might - y ad - vent cho - rus
 rest and home, but in heaven - ly glo - ry shin - ing,

hope re - store and faith in - crease: Christ is com - ing!
 Lord, when you re - turn to reign: Christ is com - ing!
 on - ward roll from tongue to tongue: Christ is com - ing!
 soon the ris - en Christ shall come. Christ is com - ing!

Christ is com - ing! Come, O bless - ed Prince of peace.
 Christ is com - ing! Let each heart re - peat the strain.
 Christ is com - ing! Let each heart re - peat the song.
 Christ is com - ing! Joy - ful, shout the vic - tory psalm.

This hymn by a 19th-century Scottish pastor is specifically based on Revelation 1:7 and 22:20, with allusions to several other New Testament passages. Unlike medieval hymns that focused on judgment, this text understands the Second Coming as an occasion of triumph and joy.

132 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
 He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Carols using two languages, like this one dating from at least the 14th century, belong to a special group called "macaronic," the original languages here being German and Latin. Though the present version is only in English, it is sung to the traditional German folk melody.

601

Amen

A - men. A - men. A - men.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The vocal line (treble clef) consists of four measures: the first two measures are chords, the third measure contains the notes A, B, and C with a slur over them, and the fourth measure is a chord. The piano accompaniment (bass clef) also consists of four measures: the first two are chords, the third measure contains the notes A, B, and C with a slur over them, and the fourth is a chord. The lyrics 'A - men. A - men. A - men.' are placed below the vocal line.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text
MUSIC: Anon. Danish

DANISH AMEN