

GATHERING

Prelude - FPC Bell Choir

In the Bleak Midwinter arr. by Cathy Moglebust

Welcome

Call to Worship (Psalm 98)

One: Sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things!

**All: God has made his salvation known
and revealed his righteousness to the nations!**

One: The LORD has remembered his love
and his faithfulness to Israel!

**All: All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God!**

One: Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,
burst into jubilant song with music!

**All: Let the rivers clap their hands,
let the mountains sing together for joy!**

One: Let them sing before the LORD,
for he comes to judge the earth.

**All: The Lord will judge the world in righteousness
and the peoples with equity.**

One: Let us worship God!

Gathering Song: Angels from the Realms of Glory

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
You, who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!

Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!

James Montgomery and Henry Thomas Smart***

PRAISING

Advent Liturgy: Love

Brent and Jo Ruby

One: We light this candle in Love.

All: On this day, we remember the steadfast love of God.

Prayer of Adoration

Merciful God, in this day of standing tiptoe,
waiting and watching for your coming,
we give you glory for the gift of your Son,
light in the darkness, hope of the world,
whom you have sent, whom you will *send*,
to save us from ourselves.

With the whole chorus of angels, we praise your name
and proclaim the hope of your Love come near,
that all may believe, rejoice, and return to your arms,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Song of Adoration: Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all ye nations rise! Join the triumph of the skies!
With angelic hosts proclaim: "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh, the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity;
Pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace, hail the Son of Righteousness.
Light and Life to all He brings, ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, born that we no more may die;
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Charles Wesley**

BELONGING

Kids on the Steps

Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon

One: Let us enter into a time of confession through song and prayer.

**All Sing: O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by.
Yet in the dark street shineth the everlasting Light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

One: Lord God, ...

In Jesus we know your presence among us as everlasting light shining into the darkness of our streets and souls. In Jesus we know your heart to stand with the shunned, to bind up the brokenhearted, to welcome the insider in, to build up hearts of hope and courage and faith. And yet we confess that we have preferred the shadows, side-stepping the challenge of your Word, preoccupying ourselves with what is sinful, self-serving, comfortable, and cheap.

Forgive us, Lord. Forgive us for our doubt, our fear, our shallowness, our rebellion.

Be born in us anew, that we might exult in your friendship and apprentice ourselves to the way of your hope, peace, joy and love.
Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

**All Sing: O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray.
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell.
Oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!**

One: Friends, ...

The good news of Advent is the good news of Easter! Christ has come, Christ is risen, and Christ will come again! Thanks be to the God who comes among us, forgiving our sin, and setting us free to grow into his way of love!

**All Sing: How silently, how silently the wondrous Gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.**

STEWARDING

Invitation to Offering

The word 'Advent' means 'coming.'

*And my favorite Advent Scripture comes from Zechariah's song in the Gospel of Luke (1.78-79)
It prophesies the gift that is coming in Christ:*

*'By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us,
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.'*

*Let us respond to the gift of Christ with gladness,
presenting the offerings
of our life and labor to the Lord.*

Offering Song: Christ is Lower Still

Breathe in, reach out, touch the hem of Your garment now.
Help me, heal me, my mind, my body and soul.

*Refrain: Let the King descend, living Word made flesh,
lift this heavy heart to Your throne, O God.
In Your wounds I find room for all of mine.
When from grace I fell, Christ was lower still.*

Humbly, lowly, Jesus waits in the valley.
My Savior suffers with me, with Him I'll rise again. *Refrain*

We lift it all up to You Lord. We lift it all up to You Lord.

We lift our heads, we lift our hands, *(we lift it all up to You Lord)*
We lift our dreams, we lift our plans, *(we lift it all up to You Lord)*
We lift our sorrow, and our pain, *(we lift it all up to You Lord)*
We cast our cares on You again, *(we lift it all up to You Lord)* *Refrain*

Matt Maher, Kate Bluett, Doe Jones**

FORMING

Sermon: Hosea 11:1-9

God's Love for Israel

11

“When Israel was a child, I loved him,
and out of Egypt I called my son.

2

But the more they were called,
the more they went away from me.^[a]
They sacrificed to the Baals
and they burned incense to images.

3

It was I who taught Ephraim to walk,
taking them by the arms;
but they did not realize
it was I who healed them.

4

I led them with cords of human kindness,
with ties of love.
To them I was like one who lifts
a little child to the cheek,
and I bent down to feed them.

5

“Will they not return to Egypt
and will not Assyria rule over them
because they refuse to repent?

6

A sword will flash in their cities;
it will devour their false prophets
and put an end to their plans.

7

My people are determined to turn from me.
Even though they call me God Most High,
I will by no means exalt them.

8

“How can I give you up, Ephraim?
How can I hand you over, Israel?
How can I treat you like Admah?
How can I make you like Zeboyim?
My heart is changed within me;
all my compassion is aroused.

9

I will not carry out my fierce anger,
nor will I devastate Ephraim again.
For I am God, and not a man—
the Holy One among you.
I will not come against their cities.

10

They will follow the Lord;
he will roar like a lion.

When he roars,
his children will come trembling from the west.

11

They will come from Egypt,
trembling like sparrows,
from Assyria, fluttering like doves.
I will settle them in their homes,”
declares the Lord.

Song of Response: Let Us Be Known

Let us be known by our love
In every word, in every deed honor the Son
Let our light shine in every eye
Let us be known by our love

For the glory of the Father
For the glory of the Son
For the glory of the Spirit
Let us be known by our love

Let us be known by our joy
In every home, in every heart sing to the Lord
Let our life show goodness and hope
Let us be known by our joy

For the glory of the Father
For the glory of the Son
For the glory of the Spirit
Let us be known by our joy

Let us be known by our peace
In every town, in every tribe Jesus is King
Let us go forth, heal and restore
Let us be known by our peace

For the glory of the Father
For the glory of the Son
For the glory of the Spirit
Let us be known by our peace

Matt Armstrong, Micah Massey, Nate Moore, Ryan Flanigan**

Prayers of the People

Good and gracious God,
We give you thanks this fourth Sunday in Advent for the anticipation of your birth -
The Lord of the universe humbled to become human,
The Savior of all, on a fragile mission of mercy,
Good news of great joy to all peoples.

On this morning we pray that you might be born anew in us,
That we might welcome the gift of your unfailing love,
and delight in coming to practice your kingdom way:
Where strength is expressed in vulnerability,

Where riches are to be found in self-giving,
Where greatness is to be experienced in service,
and wisdom is attained in surrender.

As those who have been unfaithful yet enjoyed the embrace of your tenderness,
Make us ambassadors of your reconciliation – in our families, in our community, and in the arenas of our contribution and influence.

We pray that in and through this church you might do a work of life-giving, life-changing love. Fan the fire of what is faithful and good into a blaze of shared Life that draws in all who are searching for warmth, all who are aching for God and friendship and a purpose as big as your grace.

Lord, there are those among us and those we love who are hurting.
And we pray that you might draw near to those who are:

Afflicted by illness	that you might give them your healing and wholeness
Afraid	that you might give them your peace of heart
Discouraged	that you might give them your peace
Addicted	that you might give them a fresh beginning
Lonely	that you might give them the warmth of your companionship
Brokenhearted	that you might give them hope beyond what they can see

Lord, we commit to you also those concerns we have not spoken,
Those sighings too deep for words,
Those longings that only you can hear and comprehend and redeem

We lift all these things, praying for your love to come near, even as you taught us to pray, saying:

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come, Your 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 Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

SENDING

Sending Song: They Will Know that We are Christians By Our Love

We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord;
We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord;
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand.
We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand.
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will work with each other; we will work side by side;
We will work with each other; we will work side by side;
And we'll guard human dignity and save human pride:

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
And all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

Peter Scholtes***

Benediction

Leading in Worship This Morning:

Liturgist: Dan Cravy

Kids on the Steps: Melinda Hickey

Sermon: Steven Lympus

Musicians: Chris Caldwell, Lydia Garrick, Noah Hill, Madison Spencer,
Joselyn Thomsen

Sound and Video Techs: Zane Reneau, Dan McCaffrey, Ron Righter

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