



GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Service of Worship December 20, 2020 10:00am
4th Sunday of Advent

Gathering

PRELUDE "How Far Is It to Bethlehem?" arr. Douglas E. Wagner
Linda Dover, organist

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT "Psallite" by Michael Praetorius
(Now We Sing)

Chancel Singers I – Rebecca Prater, director
Liz Chandler, Terri Monrad, Sue Trigger, Connie Richards
Charlie Trigger, Gene Wilson, Mitch Trigger, & Joe Hoffman

Latin text/English translation:

Psallite, unigenito, Christo Dei Filio.

Now we sing! All in one accord, to the Son of God, our Lord.

On this day is born to us our Saviour and Redeemer Jesus Christ, our King.

German text/English translation:

Ein Kleines Kindelein leigt in dem Krippe lein.

Come see the Heav'nly child, so gentle meek and mild.

Alle liebe Engelein dienen dem Kindelein, und singen ihm fein.

Lowly in a manger laid, how sweet the little babe, Jesus Christ, our King

Latin text/English translation:

Psallite, unigenito, Christo Dei Filio.

Now we sing! All in one accord, to the Son of God, our Lord.

On this day is born to us our Saviour and Redeemer, Alleluia!

CALL TO WORSHIP

**Seasons come and seasons go,
but our God endures forever.
Our faith exhibits ebb and flow,
but our God endures forever.
Our lives may freeze up or may grow,
but our God endures forever.
So let our souls magnify the Lord our God this day.**

HYMN 82

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

HYFRYDOL

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 82

1 Come, thou long - ex - spect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra-cious king-dom bring.

Is-rael's strength and con-so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf-fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo-rious throne.

With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

HYMN

“Light The Advent Candle, Four”

ADVENT CANDLE SONG

**Light the Advent candle, four:
Christ was born, the child we adore.
Wrapped in love that wondrous night
Shepherds wondered at the sight.**

Chorus:

**Candle, candle burning bright
Shining in the cold winter night
Candle, candle burning bright
Fill our hearts with Christmas light.**

A TIME WITH STEWART

ADVENT PRAYER (*video*)

ANTHEM

“What Child Is This?”

arr. Molly Ijames

Chancel Singers II — Linda Dover, piano

Barbara Douglas, Cindy Schendel, Pam Kelly, Susan Hayden, Laura Farris,
Jim Kelly, Ellin Schoenfeld, Gene Wilson, Bob Dover, & Joe Hoffman

v. 1 What child is this who laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping...

v. 2 Why lies he in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding.

Good Christian, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.

Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you.

Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the Son of Mary.

v. 3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him.

The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.

Raise, raise a song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby.

Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe the Son of Mary.

This babe, the Son of God.

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE & SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you and all others!

HYMN 98

“To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary”
(vv. 1, 2, & 4 Soloists — vv. 3, 5, & 6 All)

ANNUNCIATION

98 To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary

Capo 3: (Em) (B7) (Em) (Am) (B) (Em)
 Gm D7 Gm Cm D Gm

- 1 To a maid whose name was Mar - y, the an - gel Ga - briel came.
- 2 "For you are high - ly fa - vored by God the Lord of all,
- 3 But Mar - y was most trou - bled to hear the an - gel's word.
- 4 "Fear not, for God is with you, and you shall bear a child.
- 5 "How shall this be?" said Mar - y, "I am not yet a wife."
- 6 As Mar - y heard the an - gel, she won - dered at his words.

(Em) (B7) (Em) (G) (D) (G)
 Gm D7 Gm B^b F B^b

"Fear not," the an - gel told her, "I come to bring good news;
 who e - ven now is with you. You are on earth most blest;
 What was the an - gel say - ing? It trou - bled her to hear,
 His name shall be called Je - sus, God's off - spring from on high.
 The an - gel an - swered quick - ly, "The power of the Most High
 "Be - hold, I am your hand - maid," she said un - to her God.

(Em) (Am) (B) (Em) (Am) (B) (Em)
 Gm Cm D Gm Cm D Gm

good news I come to tell you, good news, I say, good news."
 you are most blest, most bless - ed; God chose you, you are blest!"
 to hear the an - gel's mes - sage, it trou - bled her to hear.
 And he shall reign for - ev - er, for - ev - er reign on high."
 will come up - on you short - ly, your child shall be God's child."
 "So be it; I am read - y ac - cord - ing to your word."

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This 20th-century ballad-like retelling of the Annunciation (Luke 1:26–38) displays many characteristics of a folksong style, especially repetition in both text and tune and short quotations included in the narrative. Such features help to make a song both memorable and singable.

Equipping

EPISTLE LESSON

1 John 4:7–12

(Common English Bible)

Dear friends, let's love each other, because love is from God, and everyone who loves is born from God and knows God. The person who doesn't love does not know God, because God is love. This is how the love of God is revealed to us: God has sent his only Son into the world so that we can live through him. This is love: it is not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son as the sacrifice that deals with our sins. Dear friends, if God loved us this way, we also ought to love each other. No one has ever seen God. If we love each other, God remains in us and his love is made perfect in us.

ANTHEM

"The Gift"

Music by Craig Courtney

Chancel Ensemble — Linda Dover, piano
Liz Chandler, Karen Kesler, Sue Trigger,
David Sutherland, Mitch Trigger, Bob Dover,
& Rebecca Prater, vocals & director

Lyrics by Pamela Martin

*What can I bring to the child in the manger? I have no fortune, no title, or land.
I have no treasure to lay down before him. I have no jewels to place in his hand.
His are the dazzling diamonds of heaven, the luminous pearl that glows in the night,
the shimmering silver gown of the ocean. He owns the gold of the evening's last light.*

*What can I sing to the child in the manger? I have no anthem or song I can bring.
I have no music to play in his honor, I have no lullabies written for Kings.
His are the vespers whispered at twilight, the stars of the morning dancing at dawn,
the caroling chorus of angels in flight. He is surrounded by praises and song.*

*What can I give to this child in the manger? I have no fortune, no title, or land.
I have no treasure to lay down before him, nothing of value to place in his hand.
Yet mine is the circle of arms to embrace him. I am the treasure he came to redeem.
I give my heart as a home for the Savior. My life is an anthem of praise to the King.
What can I give to the child in the manger? I offer my heart as the gift for my King.*

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 1:26–38

(Common English Bible)

When Elizabeth was six months pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a city in Galilee, to a virgin who was engaged to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David's house. The virgin's name was Mary. When the angel came to her, he said, "Rejoice, favored one! The Lord is with you!" She was confused by these words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. The angel said, "Don't be afraid, Mary. God is

88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 4 O come, thou Root of Jes - se, free thine own from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 all things might - i - ly: to us the path of knowl - edge
 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple



here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 show; and teach us in her ways to go. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
 law in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
 save and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>5 O come, thou Key of David, come,
 and open wide our heavenly home;
 make safe the way that leads on high,
 and close the path to misery.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.</p> | <p>6 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
 our spirits by thine advent here;
 disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadows put to flight.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.</p> |
| <p>7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
 all peoples in one heart and mind;
 bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
 fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.</p> | |

One stanza of this paraphrase of the great O Antiphons may be sung on each of the last days of Advent as follows:

Dec. 17: O Wisdom (2)	Dec. 20: O Key of David (5)	Dec. 23: O Emmanuel (1)
Dec. 18: O Lord of might (3)	Dec. 21: O Dayspring (6)	
Dec. 19: O Root of Jesse (4)	Dec. 22: O Desire of Nations (7)	

These titles of the coming Christ appeared in daily Vesper antiphons sung during the week before Christmas; their roots date at least to the reign of Charlemagne. Both text and tune are the fruit of 19th-century efforts to reclaim Christian treasures from pre-Reformation sources.

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“God Rest You Merry”
Linda Dover, organist

arr. Wilbur Held

GOD’S PEACE TO YOU

Some music is reprinted by permission of CCLI 1154643 and OneLicense A-705105.
Our Church Streaming & Podcast Licenses are CSPL 048834 through CCLI & included in OneLicense A-705105.
Any videos are shown by permission of CVLI #504087502.