

Worship Outline

Advent 4

December 22, 2019

We Gather

Prelude

A Christmas Meditation

Nolte

Organ and Piano duet

Peggy Mayfield, piano

+Opening Hymn 110

Love Has Come

+Call to Worship (responsive)

The family of God is a scandalous one.

A holy lineage of risk-takers and truth-tellers.

Choosing each other in the midst of danger.

Turning towards love and practicing courage.

Defying social norms that confine and exclude.

Resisting forms of power that destroy.

God draws together the open-hearted,

the passionate and the brave,

the tender and the humble,

the ones who provoke justice and summon ideas that transform.

The birth of Christ is the divine embrace of the strange, the subversive, and the forsaken.

Love incarnate welcomes us home.

+Candle Lighting Liturgy

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel.

*O Come, thou Wisdom from on high,
who orderest all things mightily:
to us the path of knowledge show;
And teach us in her ways to go.*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to the O Israel.

*O come, thou Root of Jesse,
free thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell they people save
and give them victory o'er the grave.*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to the O Israel.

*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.

Reader One: One thing we have learned on our Advent journey is that it is better not to go alone. We live in a do-it-yourself culture that celebrates the individual. But faith is not something that we can do on our own. We need companions on the journey; we need others to support us and strengthen us and encourage us. We put our journey in the hands of many people around us; and although it is a risk, we are better for it. We learn to trust that someone has our back, as we make this journey of faith.

Reader Two: Matthew reminds us that when God chose to come to earth the first time, God chose to trust in people to help make it happen. God trusted in Mary, and God trusted in Joseph. In turn, we trust in God to be faithful to the promise and to sustain us through many others as we continue our journey of faith.

Reader One: We light the candles of peace, hope, joy, and trust, as our circle is complete.

(Light four candles on the wreath.)

Reader Two: Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, that God may teach us the ways of peace, hope, joy, and trust.

*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.*

Unison Prayer of Confession

The grace of God overflows for us through Christ Jesus, who came into the world to save sinners. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

Gracious God, you alone are holy, the perfection of goodness and glory. We confess that we have sinned and fallen short of your glory— afraid to trust your promise, failing to share your gifts. Forgive us, O God. Deliver us from sin and death and restore us to life and grace through the one you sent to save us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Water may be lifted from the baptismal font.

Silence is kept.

Assurance

Hear the good news. Jesus has indeed come into the world to save us from our sins. Receive the gift of God's redeeming grace: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

The Peace and Welcome

In Jesus Christ, we know God's forgiveness and peace.

Let us share that peace with one another.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

+Gathering Song 141 (verse 4)

*On this day angels sing;
with their song earth shall ring,
praising Christ, heaven's King,
born on earth to save us;
Peace and love he gave us.
Id-e-o-o-o, id-e-o-o-o,
id-e-o gloria in excelsis De-o!*

Sharing the Story

Opening the Word with Young Disciples

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 7:10-16

Let us pray...

Be with us, O God,
for this is your promise,
your word to the world.
Pour out the gift of your Spirit
in this time, this place,
and this gathering of your people.
Let your promise be fulfilled,
let your word become flesh,
and let this world be made new;
through Jesus Christ,
Emmanuel. Amen
This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

10 Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, 11 Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. 12 But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. 13 Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? 14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young

woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. 15 He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. 16 For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Anthem

From Heav'n Above to the Earth I Come

Nagy
Chancel Choir

Gospel

Matthew 1: 18-25

18 Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah* took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' ²²All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel',

which means, 'God is with us.' ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son;* and he named him Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Liz Rolf Kanerva

+Hymn 101
Window

No Wind at the

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer (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.

Choral Prayer Response

Little Babe of Bethlehem
Hughes

Offering

Invitation

Just as God chooses to take risks on us, so we choose to take risks on one another. We share ourselves - our hearts, our fears, our longings and desires. We share what we have - seeking to care for one another. We share in the work of birthing Love in the world. Accepting the risks of love with the confidence of our faith, let us bring our offerings together.

Offertory

Poor Little Babe Jesus
Hughes

Trio: Debbie Rose, Peggy Mayfield, Leslen Sanders

+Doxology #84 (verse 4)

*To God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Spirit, Three in One,
praise, honor, might, and glory be
from age to age eternally. A-men.*

+Dedication

Holy One, with gratitude we anticipate your presence with us. In the depths of life, you meet us: In our grief, in our fears, in our capacities for good and for evil, you draw near. You come

to us with compassion and vulnerability, revealing the way of Love that liberates. Bless these gifts and encourage us in our love for each other. Amen.

Sending

+Hymn 121
Bethlehem

O Little Town of

+Benediction and Blessing

Take time, in the busyness of this season, for quiet reflection—
For the light of God's love is discernible everywhere.

**We will let ourselves be surprised by wonder,
and set aside time to offer quiet thanks.**

The good news of Advent is this:

Christ is coming. Christ is always coming.

We will welcome Christ into our hearts.

We will let ourselves be guided by his ministry.

We will go forth from this place in hope.

+Congregational Benediction 100 (refrain)

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.*

Postlude

Jubilate Deo

Blake

