Reading and Prayer
Brothers and sisters, we celebrate at this time the solemn season of Advent in which the Church bids us prepare to celebrate the coming of Christ; a coming that we recall in the Child of Bethlehem; a coming that we experience in the gift of his Spirit, in the bread of the Eucharist, in the joy of human lives that are shared; a coming we wait for when God gathers up all things in Christ. Let us in this holy season reflect on the coming of Christ who brings light to the world. Let us leave behind the darkness of sin, walk in the light that shines on our path, and renew within ourselves the hope of glory to which he beckons us. And as we turn towards the light, let us have on our hearts all those who see no light, for whom all is darkness and despair. Let us pray that they too may be illumined by Christ who is our light.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty,
we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*__Closing Hymn:__ I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light #206

Benediction
Go now and walk in the light of the Lord.
Stay alert for the Lord is near.
Put on the armor of light
and live openly and honorably.
Pray for peace for all God's people.
And may God clothe you in the light of Christ;
May Christ Jesus teach you his ways;
And may the Holy Spirit keep you alert and prepared
for the coming day of the Lord.
We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
In the name of Christ. **Amen.**

Benediction Response: "Peace, Peace/Silent Night"

Postlude: Angels We Have Heard on High - arr. Laura Paige

Instrumentalists

Elizabeth Hedman, violin
Sharon Harman, violin
Carrie Holzman-Little, viola
Dane Little, cello
Benjamin Gorbea, saxophone

Special Thanks

This program is being supported by the Howard and Fran Syverson Music Fund. Howard and Fran are long-time members of the church and strong believers in the spiritual power of music.

A Service of Lessons & Carols

Church of the Good Shepherd United Methodist

Sunday, December 11, 2022

Church of the Good Shepherd Chancel Choir
Kirk Averitt, conductor
Dr. Stephen Cook, organist/pianist
Diane Lucas & Dave Raymond, Readers

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer
Beloved in Christ, in this season of Advent, let it be our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the Angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem, to see the Babe lying in a manger. Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by his holy Child; and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise. But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for the mission and unity of the Church for which he died, and especially in this country and within this city. And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless; the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children. Lastly, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

This prayer and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is this kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

First Lesson: Isaiah 60: 1-5 - Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you...

The word of God, for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem: I Will Arise, arr. Alice Parker

I will arise and go to Jesus
He will embrace me in his arms
In the arms of my dear savior,
Oh there are 10,000 charms

Teach me some melodious sonnet
Sung by flaming tongues above
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it
Mount of thy redeeming love

Come thou fount of every blessing
Tune my heart to sing thy praise
Streams of mercy never ceasing
Call for songs of loudest praise

Second Lesson: Isaiah 11: 1-9 - A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse. From his roots a branch will bear fruit ...

The word of God, for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem: Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming, arr. Shawn Kirchner

Lo, how a rose e're blooming
From tender stem hath sprung
Of Jesse's lineage coming
As saints of old hath sung
It came a floweret bright
Amid the cold of winter
When half spent was the night

Isaiah t'was foretold it
This rose I have in mind
With Mary we behold it
The virgin mother kind
To show God's love aright
She bore to us a savior
When half spent was the night

This flower whose fragrance tender
With sweetness fills the air
Dispels in glorious splendor
The darkness everywhere
True man, yet very God
From sin and death he saves us
And lightens every load

Third Lesson: Isaiah 9: 2, 6 - 7 - The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness, a light has dawned...

The word of God, for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

*__Congregational Hymn:__ Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus #196

Fourth Lesson: Isaiah 40: 1-11 - Comfort ye, comfort ye my people saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished ...

The word of God, for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem: And the Glory of the Lord, from *Messiah* - G.F. Handel

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed
And all flesh shall see it together
For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it

Fifth Lesson: Luke 1:26 - 35 - In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee ...

The word of God, for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem: O Little Town of Bethlehem - arr. Dan Forrest

Lyrics on the following page

O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight

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

For Christ is born of Mary
And gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love
O morning stars together
Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God our King
And peace to all the earth

Oh 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
O come to us, abide with us
Our Lord, Emmanuel

Sixth Lesson: Luke 2: 8 - 15 - Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them ...

The word of God, for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

*__Congregational Hymn__: Angels We Have Heard on High #238

Seventh Lesson: John 1: 1 - 5, 9 - 12 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God ...

The word of God, for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem: The Glory of the Father - Egil Hovland, arr. Pooler

The word was made flesh and dwelt among us
We beheld the glory of the Father
Full of grace and truth

In the beginning was the word
The word was with God
In Him was life
And the life was the light of men
He came to his own
And his own received him not