

**Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 18, 2022**

**Gathering  
*God invites us to enter His presence***

**Prelude**                      *Festive Overture*                      *Cantata Orchestra*

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Preparation for Worship** (*Time for Silent Preparation*)



**Call to Worship**

*Dan Obenschain*

A voice cries:  
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God."  
As we worship today,  
let us prepare to welcome God's dramatic work in our midst,  
in our hearts, in our community, and in all of creation.  
Let us worship God.



**Invocation** (*Responsively*)

*Dan Obenschain*

In anticipation we gather.  
**With expectation we wait.**  
We gather to watch for the coming of the good news  
into our world and into our lives.  
**We wait to see the fullness of God's vision.**  
O God, open the doors to our hearts,  
that this year we may have room for the birth of Jesus.  
**O God, as we marvel over all that you are doing,  
overwhelm us with so much wonder  
that words of praise spring forth from our lips!**  
In this time of waiting, let true worship begin in our hearts.  
**Let our praises rise up to the heavens!  
Let our celebrations spread new hope over a tired world!  
Let us gather together all our dreams and lives  
to worship our God! Amen.**

**Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle**

*Pamela Johnson Family*

[*Fourth Sunday of Advent, after lighting the fourth Advent candle*]  
Prepare the way of the Lord.  
We light this candle in love,  
the love that Jesus, our Savior, has for us.  
**Prepare, then, the way of the Lord.**

**Cantata**  
**“The Carols of Christmas”**  
**By Phil Barfoot**

**The Birth of Jesus**

Reading        I Luke 2:1=7

*Come Adore Him*

*(:O Come, All ye Faithful; O Come, O Come, Emmanuel;  
God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen)*

*(Choir Only) Come, come, come, come...*

*(Choir & Congregation)*

*O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;*

*O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!*

*Come and behold Him, born the king of angels!*

*O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,*

*O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!*

*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, Israel.*

*God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay.  
Remember Christ, our Savior, was born of Christmas Day,  
to save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray.  
O tiding of comfort and joy, comfort and joy! O tiding of comfort and joy!*

*Now to the Lord sing praises all you within this place!  
And with true love and brotherhood, come celebrate His grace.  
This holy Child of Christmas, may each one seek His face.  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy! O tidings of comfort and joy!*

*Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n.  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!*

*(Choir only)*

*Christ the Lord! Christ the Lord! Come, come, come, come ...*

**Shepherds & Angels**

Reading        Luke 2:8-20

Shepherd's Pipe Carol

*J. Rutter*

*Choir & Orchestra*

Celtic Christmas Celebration

*(Hark, the Herald Angels Song; He is Born; Angels from the Realms Of Glory)*

*(Choir, Orchestra & Congregation)*

*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 th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
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 man 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!"*

*He is born, the divine Christ child. Greet Him with joyful resounding  
pipe and drum.*

*He is born, the divine Christ child. Join in a song, for the Lord has  
come.*

*Prophets wise had foretold His birth, pledging peace to all men on  
earth.*

*Filled with hope, men began to pray 'til His coming this happy day.  
He is born, the divine Christ child. Greet Him with joyful resounding  
pipe and drum.*

*He is born, the divine Christ child, join in a song, for the Lord has  
come.*

*(Choir)*

*Join in a song, for the Lord has come!*

*(Choir & Congregation)*

*Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye 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 'er your flocks by night,  
God with man is now residing, yonder shines the infant light.  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn  
King!*

*Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn  
King!*

*(Choir)*

*Worship Christ, the newborn King, newborn King, the newborn King!*

**The Magi Visit the Messiah**

Reading            Matthew 2:1-11

*We Three Kings*

*Wind Ensemble*

*Behold Him (Choir & Orchestra)*

**Offering**

***Thankful of the gifts God has given us, we offer ourselves to Him***

**Offering**

**Offertory**

*Lord of Glory  
Choir & Orchestra*

**! Prayer of Dedication**

O Mighty One,  
you have done and are doing great things for us,  
and holy is your name.  
Bless all we offer you—ourselves, our time,  
and our possessions—  
that through us your grace and favor  
may be made known to all the world,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. **Amen.**

**Proclaiming**

***God speaks to us through His Word***

**Old Testament Reading**

Psalm 36: 5-9

<sup>5</sup> LORD, your faithful love reaches to heaven,  
your faithfulness to the clouds.  
<sup>6</sup> Your righteousness is like the highest mountains,  
your judgments like the deepest sea.  
LORD, you preserve people and animals.  
<sup>7</sup> How priceless your faithful love is, God!  
People take refuge in the shadow of your wings.  
<sup>8</sup> They are filled from the abundance of your house.  
You let them drink from your refreshing stream.  
<sup>9</sup> For the wellspring of life is with you.  
By means of your light we see light.

**New Testament Reading**


*1John 4:7-12*

<sup>7</sup> Dear friends, let us love one another, because love is from God, and everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> The one who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his one and only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> Love consists in this: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Dear friends, if God loved us in this way, we also must love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God. If we love one another, God remains in us and his love is made complete in us.

**Sermon**

*"God With Us: Love"  
Rev. Tim Latham*

**Commissioning**  
***God sends us out into the world as His witnesses***

 **Hymn 155**                      *Once in Royal David's City*

 **Benediction & Blessing**

 **Postlude**                      *Silent Night*  
   *Woodwind Ensemble*

*Prayer Partners today are Barb Finch and Dan Obenschain*

**Orchestra:**

Flute – Bob Carpency

Violin – Jennifer Fleeger

Oboe—Isabella Frias

Violin – Elizabeth Grimshaw

Clarinet – Cindy Hoopes

Viola – Linda Jeffers

Percussion – Benjamin Johnson

Cello – Karen Jensen

Piano – Thomas Alberici

Conductor – Pamela Johnson

**Woodwind Ensemble:** Bob Carpency, Anna Claire Vallette, Maria Dadd, Natalie DiPietrae, Cindy Hoopes, Nancy Warrington, Isabella Frias, Charity Harter

**Choir:**

Soprano - Amanda Adler, Adrienne Boyance, Kay Clauss, Natalie DiPietrae, Kelly Fox, Robin Miller, Natalie Swatton, Anna Claire Vallette

Alto - Maria Dadd, Charity Harter, Wanda Heim, Donna Jackman, Jill Swatton

Tenor - Dan Baker, Mike Lenz, Dan Vallette, Nancy Warrington

Bass - Pat Adams, Benjamin Johnson, Greg Maurer, Bill Swatton

Narrator—Susan Obenschain