

Service of Worship

Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2019 10:15 AM

*Please rise as able

-- Ready for the Word --

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Bring a torch, Jeanette, Isabella, bring a torch it is dark in the stall;

It is Jesus, good folks of the village, run quickly, I hear Mary's soft call.

Chorus: Ah, Ah, radiant is the mother, Ah, ah, angelic is the child.

Hush, hush, see how the child is sleeping, hush, hush, see how he smiles in dreams.

Stars they glow and night is unveiled, stars, they glow, now jump out of bed!

Silence now as you gather around him,

wake not the babe who shines so bright. Chorus

Bring a torch, Jeanette, Isabella, bring your family, your friends and all;

It is Jesus good folks of the city, angels are singing soft and sweet. Chorus

Ah, ah, gaze down at peaceful slumber, ah, ah, gaze down at his small face.

Hush, hush, listen to angels singing, hush, hush, see how he smiles in dreams.

Introit by Dohner

“A Christmas Litany in Word and Song”

Christ is born, celebrate! Fill the world with joy.

Dance your dance, sing your song, Fill the world with joy.

The Light of God Enters

Advent Candle Lighting - *The Welliver Family*

Reader 1: This Advent season, we remember the adventures of Joseph, Zechariah, Simeon, and Mary, passed down from long ago in Holy Scripture. These narratives are signs that God shall always care for us. May they remind us of God's love for God's people.

Reader 2: These stories proclaim the truth of God's faithfulness in and through Jesus Christ. This morning, we light the first three candles, including the sage green candle, which represents Simeon. Simeon was a man who had foreseen the coming of the Messiah in scripture and had waited and prayed that one day he would see the Messiah with his own eyes. *Light the first three candles*

Reader 3: Simeon's story reminds us that God works in God's own time. We don't always see the results of our actions. We don't always get the things we ask for. But God is always faithful. *The third Nativity Figure is placed.*

People: God, help us to be patient. Help us to know that your love will always overcome. Let us rest in the eternal hope of your promise.

*Hymn Hymnal No. 140

“Once in Royal David's City”

Prayer of Confession

God, there are certain points in our lives when we can be impatient. The faster our world goes, the more impatient we become. Our brains are tuned to respond instantly. Help us to slow down. Help us to wait. Help us to be patient. Help us to have the perspective of Simeon, who waited his whole life just to see the messiah. May we know that the work we do now carries on into the future.

We Offer Our Own Confessions in Silence

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: We are not now what we have been; nor are we yet what, by God's grace, we shall become. God hears our prayers, sets us free, and strengthens us for service. Receive God's forgiveness.

People: Thanks be to God.

*Response – *verse 1* Hymnal No. 138

Who would think that what was needed to transform and save the earth might not be a plan or army, proud in purpose, proved in worth?

Who would think, despite derision, that a child should lead the way?

God surprises earth with heaven, coming here on Christmas Day.

*Passing of the Peace

-- Receiving the Word --

Children's Sermon

*Hymn Hymnal No. 121

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Prayer for Understanding

Old Testament Lesson (OT Page 663)

Isaiah 35:1-10

New Testament Lesson (NT Page 59)

Luke 2:25-38

Sermon

“For My Eyes Have Seen”

Musical Offering

by Wesley

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

*Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set your people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.*

Come, O come, Emmanuel! Come, O come, Emmanuel!

*Born your people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, now your gracious kingdom bring,
Come, O come, Emmanuel! Come, O come, Emmanuel!
Come, come, O Jesus, Come, come, O Jesus, Come, O come, Emmanuel!*

-- Responding to the Word --

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer (*debts/debtors*)

Hymnal Pg. 35

Giving of Our Tithes, Offerings, and Selves

Offertory

arranged by Luboff

"Still, Still, Still"

Still, still, still, one can hear the falling snow.

For all is hushed, the world is sleeping, Holy star its vigil keeping.

Still, still, still, one can hear the falling snow.

Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Saviour's birth.

The night is peaceful all around you, close your eyes, let sleep surround you.

Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Saviour's birth.

Dream, dream, dream, of the joyous day to come.

While guardian angels without number watch you as you sweetly slumber.

Dream, dream, dream, of the joyous day to come.

*Offertory Response

Insert

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn

Hymnal No. 157

"I Danced in the Morning"

*Blessing

*Choral Benediction - *sung with the congregation*

Hymnal No. 545

"Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace" – The Song of Simeon

*The Light of God Goes with Us into the World

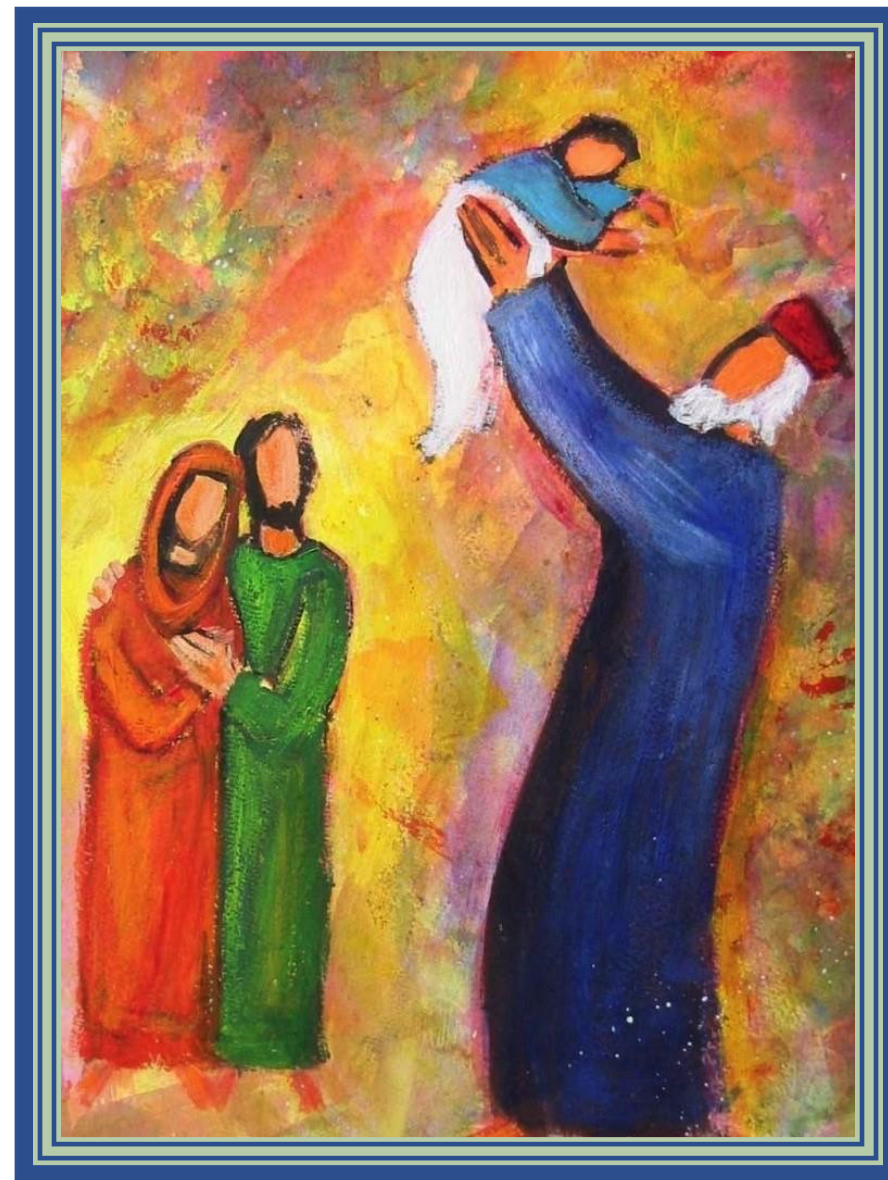
*Postlude

arranged by Bish

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

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Participants in today's service: Women's Quintet (prelude), Cherub Choir (introit), Karen Tinstman (worship leader), Isabelle Baylor (acolyte), Junior Choir (musical offering), Laurie Clapper (children's sermon), Senior Choir (offertory and benediction), Gary Christian and Mitch Welliver (deacons), Fred Kruger (guitar), Rev. George Spencer (trumpet), Joy Christian (organist), Rev. Jason Clapper (pastor).
Next week's sermon: "*Greetings, Favored One*".



Presentation of Jesus at the Temple by Jean-Luc Fabre

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