



Community Presbyterian Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent
22 December 2024

GATHERING

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

*Call to Worship

(One) This is the season of holy waiting.

(All) We wait for the One who will open the heavens and come down to save us.

(One) We watch for the day when God's name will be made known among the nations.

(All) We wait in the shadows for the Light of the World to appear.

(One) Come let us walk in the light of God!

Opening Prayer

Fourth Candle of Advent: Love

(One) Watch and wait for Christ's coming!

(All) We light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God with prayer.

Lighting of the candles of Hope, Peace, Joy & Love

(One) God of love, out of darkness you bring light. Renew your love in us, so that we may be assured of Christ among us.

(All) God of Love, into our world come.

May your Spirit comfort us today.

Responsive Psalm

Psalm 80:1-7

(One) Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.

(All) Stir up your might, and come to save us! Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

(One) O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

(All) You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure.

(One) You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.

(All) Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

*Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

(1) O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

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

(2) O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who ordered all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show
and teach us in its ways to go. *Refrain*

(3) O come, O come, great Lord of might,
who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times did give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe. *Refrain*

(4) O come, O Branch of Jesse's stem,
unto your own and rescue them!
From depths of hell your people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave. *Refrain*

(5) O come, O Key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home.
Make safe for us the heavenward road
and bar the way to death's abode. *Refrain*

(6) O come, O Bright and Morning Star,
and bring us comfort from afar!
Dispel the shadows of the night
and turn our darkness into light. *Refrain*

(7) O come, O King of nations, bind
in one the hearts of all mankind.
Bid all our sad divisions cease
and be yourself our King of Peace. *Refrain*

Prayer of Confession

(All) Lord God, we praise you for sending light into this world. We confess that we live as though the light had never defeated darkness. We confess that we ignore the Savior you sent to be among us and to live in us. We've kept the birth of your Son confined to a season. Forgive

us for not opening our eyes to Jesus. Prepare us for His return. Help us rejoice in the light so that your grace can illuminate the darkened places of our hearts. Assure us of our pardon that we may find rest in you. Amen.

Silence

Assurance of Pardon

PROCLAMATION

Old Testament Reading

Micah 5:2-5a

New Testament Reading

Hebrews 10:5-10

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:39-45

Sermon

RESPONSE

***Hymn (191)**

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

(1) It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heaven's all gracious King":
the world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

(2) Still through the cloven skies they come,
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

(3) For lo, the days are hastening on,
by prophets seen of old,
when, with the ever-circling years,
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

***Affirmation of Faith**

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. **I believe** in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he will come to judge the living and the dead. **I believe** in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Offertory

***Doxology & Prayer of Dedication**

Passing of the Peace

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (sins/trespases)

SENDING

Charge

Benediction

Postlude

Wait for the Lord

Community Presbyterian Church

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Pastor: Rev. Jason Brian Santos, Ph.D. (206) 962-9886

Worship Leader/Pianist: Amy Humphreys

SCRIPTURES

Micah 5:2-5a

5:2

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

5:3

Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

5:4

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth,

5:5

and he shall be the one of peace.

Hebrews 10:5-10

10:5

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me;

10:6

in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.

10:7

Then I said, 'See, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

10:8

When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law),

10:9

then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second.

10:10

And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Luke 1:39-45

1:39

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country,

1:40

where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

1:41

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit

1:42

and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

1:43

And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me?

1:44

For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy.

1:45

And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."