

**SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY**

December 23, 2007 - 10:30 a.m.

*The Fourth Sunday of Advent*

*"The Love of Christ"*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH**

**PRELUDE** **Fantasia on "Adeste Fidelis"** **Smith**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** **Psalm 145:5-10**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Look said the prophet: "A virgin shall conceive and bear a son".

**You shall call him Emmanuel which means "God is with us".**

He will be born of the line of David and of his kingdom there will be no end.

**You shall call him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.**

In him all the promises made from the beginning of time to the end shall come true.

**By him the fullness of God's love shall shine upon the whole world.**

Let us worship God.

**CHORAL INTROIT** **"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"** **Choir**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE** *(Sung to the tune of Away in a Manger)*

**A Candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,  
a candle of hope in December's dark night.  
While angels sing blessing from heaven's starry sky,  
our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.**

**\*HYMN** **"Away in the Manger"**

**Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,  
The little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay  
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes;  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay,  
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray!  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care  
And take us to heaven, to Live with Thee there.**

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*O Holy One, we call to you and name you as eternal, ever-present, and boundless in love. Yet there are times, O God, when we fail to recognize you in the daily-ness of our lives. Sometimes shame clenches tightly around our hearts, and we hide our true feelings. Sometimes fear makes us small, and we miss the chance to speak from our strength. Sometimes doubt invades our hopefulness, and we degrade our own wisdom.*

*Holy God, in this season of hope, peace, joy and love, remind us again of your holy presence hovering near us and in us. Free us from shame and self-doubt. Help us to see you in the moment-by-moment possibilities to live honestly, to act courageously, and to speak from our wisdom. Amen.*

### SILENT CONFESSION

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

### \*GLORIA PATRI

### RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Hear us, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock;  
you who sit enthroned between the cherubim, shine forth

**before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh. Awaken your might;  
come and save us.**

Restore us, O God; make your face shine upon us,  
that we may be saved.

**O LORD God Almighty, how long will your anger smolder  
against the prayers of your people?**

You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have made them drink tears by the bowlful.

**You have made us a source of contention to our neighbors,  
and our enemies mock us.**

Restore us, O God Almighty; make your face shine upon us,  
that we may be saved.

**You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it.**

You cleared the ground for it, and it took root and filled the land.

**The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches.**

It sent out its boughs to the Sea, its shoots as far as the River.

**Why have you broken down its walls so that all who pass by pick its grapes?**

Boars from the forest ravage it and the creatures of the field feed on it.

**Return to us, O God Almighty! Look down from heaven and see!**

**Watch over this vine,**

the root your right hand has planted, the son you have raised up for yourself.

**Your vine is cut down, it is burned with fire; at your rebuke your people perish.**

Let your hand rest on the man at your right hand, the son of man you have raised up for yourself.

Then we will not turn away from you; revive us, and we will call on your name.  
Restore us, O LORD God Almighty; make your face shine upon us,  
that we may be saved.

## Lessons and Carols

### THE BIRTH OF THE SAVIOR

READING OF LUKE 1:26-38

The Angel Visits Mary

REFLECTION

ANTHEM

Joy To The World

LUKE 1:39-45:

Mary and Elizabeth

REFLECTION

CAROL

"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child" Joseph Simpson Cook (1919)

*Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;  
there he lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger.  
Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Savior?  
Ask the saved of all the race who have found his favor.*

*Angels sang about his birth, wise men sought and found him;  
heaven's star shone brightly forth, glory all around him.  
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, heard the angels singing;  
all the plains were lit that night, all the hills were ringing.*

*Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;  
he is still the undefiled, but no more a stranger.  
Son of God of humble birth, beautiful the story;  
praise his name in all the earth; hail the King of glory!*

LUKE 2:1-7

The Birth in Bethlehem

REFLECTION

CAROL

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" Polish Carol

*Infant holy, infant lowly,  
For his bed a cattle stall;  
Oxen lowing, little knowing  
Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
Swift are winging angels singing,  
Noels ringing, Tidings bringing:*

***Christ the babe is Lord of all.***

***Flocks were sleeping;  
Shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new,  
Saw the glory, heard the story,  
Tidings of a gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow praises voicing  
Greet the morrow: Christ the babe was born for you.***

**LUKE 2:8-14**

**The Angels & The Shepherds**

**REFLECTION**

**CAROL**

**"Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"**

**Felix Mendelssohn (1739)**

***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 the angelic host proclaim,  
'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'***

***Hark! the herald angels sing,  
'Glory to the newborn King!'***

***Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail, the incarnate deity,  
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel!***

***Hark! the herald angels sing,  
'Glory to the newborn King!'***

***Hail, the heaven born Prince of Peace!  
Hail, the Son of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth.***

***Hark! the herald angels sing,  
'Glory to the newborn King!'***

**LUKE 2:15-20**

**The Shepherds Worship**

**REFLECTION**

**ANTHEM**

**"In the Bleak Midwinter"**

**MATTHEW 2:1-11**

**The Gifts of The Magi**

**CAROL**

**"As with Gladness Men of Old"**

**William Chatterton Dix (1858)**

***As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold'  
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;  
So, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to thee.***

***As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly manger bed,  
There to bend the knee before him whom heaven and earth adore;  
So may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.***

***As they offered gifts most rare at the manger rude and bare;  
So may we with holy joy, pure, and free from sin's alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee our heavenly King.***

**JOHN 1:1-5; 3:16-18**

**The Word Made Flesh**

**\* CAROL**

**"Joy to the World"**

**Isaac Watts (1719)**

***Joy to the world! The Lord is come:  
let earth receive her King!  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.***

***Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns:  
Let men their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks hills and plains,  
repeat the sounding joy...***

***No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground:  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found...***

*He rules the earth with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love...*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**“Holy Child of Bethlehem”**

Holy Child of Bethlehem, whose parents found no room at the inn;

**we pray for all who are homeless.**

Holy Child of Bethlehem, born in a stable;

**we pray for all who live in poverty.**

Holy Child of Bethlehem, rejected stranger;

**we pray for all who are lost, alone, all who cry for loved ones.**

Holy Child of Bethlehem, whom Herod sought to kill;

**we pray for all who live with danger, all who are persecuted.**

Holy Child of Bethlehem, a refugee in Egypt;

**we pray for all who are far from their homes.**

Holy Child of Bethlehem, in you the Father was pleased to dwell,

**help us, we pray, to see the divine image in people everywhere.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

Love Came Down

Brown

\*DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*HYMN

**“Go Tell It On the Mountain”**

African-American spiritual

*Go, tell it on the mountain over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

*While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.*

*Go, tell it on the mountain over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

*The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth,  
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.*

*Go, tell it on the mountain over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

*Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,  
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.*

*Go, tell it on the mountain over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

**\*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION**

**CLOSING RESPONSE**    **Joy To The World**  
**Joy to the World! Joy to the World! Joy to the World the Lord is Come!**

**\*POSTLUDE**    **Christmas Joy**    **Blake**

- Those who are comfortable doing so are invited to stand.
- You may remain seated in the sanctuary for the Postlude in its entirety if you choose.

**Announcements**

**Welcome** to all who worship with us this morning. Visitors and members are asked to please sign the Ritual of Friendship pad. Thank you for worshipping with us!

**Remember Christmas Eve** services December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.

**There will be** no choir practice Wednesday December 26<sup>th</sup>.

**The Church office** will be closed December 24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>, due to the Christmas holiday.

**Nora Sims' new address** is posted on the bulletin board, and also on the volunteer desk, her new phone number is 254-580-1504.

**Flowers** have been placed in the sanctuary this morning in honor of Pam Nicholas' birthday.

**Helping Hands** contribution for December is rice.

Pastor - The Reverend Georgia N. King                      Organist-Choir Director- Mrs. Pat Petty

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**Sun. December 30** 9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School Class – Fellowship Hall

10:30 a.m. Morning Worship

**OFFICE HOURS**

Dara Garlington, Secretary    Monday to Friday. 9:00-12:00

Church Office 274-5331

Church e-mail: [firstpresborger@arn.net](mailto:firstpresborger@arn.net)

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