

fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

Sermon Rev. Sharon Carter

Responding to the Word

Affirmation of Faith

John 1:1-4, 14, 16-18 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people... ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth... ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Offering Prayer, Special Music

+Response *O Come, All Ye Faithful*
#41 (chorus)

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

Celebration of the Lord's

Notes

Supper

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right... who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts
2x

The whole world is full of God's glory
3x

Holy is the Lord!

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Prayer After Communion

Going Into the World

+Hymn *Watchman Tell Us Of the Night* #20

+Charge and Benediction

+Postlude



*Community of Faith
Presbyterian Church*



Community of Faith Presbyterian Church
First Sunday of Advent, December 23, 2018
+Stand as you are able
Leader reads plain type, Congregation reads bold

Preparing Ourselves

Prelude

Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Candles

L: We light this candle as the sign of the coming Christ.

P: As the Lord has promised, in the days to come:

L: The Lord will give you a sign: look, the young woman is with child

P: She shall bear a son and name him Emmanuel: "God is with us."

Let us pray: **God of grace, your eternal Word took flesh among us when Mary placed her life at the service of your will. Prepare our hearts for his coming again; keep us steadfast in hope and faithful in service, that we may receive the coming of his kingdom for the sake of Jesus Christ, the ruler of all, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever; and who taught us to pray together, saying: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we**

forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

+Hymn *People Look East* #12

Call to Confession

Surely God is our salvation. Have faith, and do not be afraid.

Prayer of Confession

Eternal God, our judge and redeemer, we confess that we have tried to hide from you, for we have done wrong. We have lived for ourselves, and apart from you. We have turned from our neighbors, and refused to bear the burdens of others. We have ignored the pain of the world, and passed by the hungry, the poor, and the oppressed. In your great mercy forgive our sins and free us from selfishness, that we may choose your will; and obey your commandments; through Jesus Christ our Savior. (Moment of silence.)

Assurance of Forgiveness

L: Do not fear, says the Lord, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name; you are mine. God is doing a new thing; now it springs forth! By the grace of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

P: By the grace of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God. Amen.

Response *Angels We Have Heard on High* #23 (chorus)

Gloria! In Excelsis Deo! Gloria! In Excelsis Deo!

+Passing of the Peace

L: As God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another: the peace of Jesus Christ be with you all.

P: And also with you.

Anthem *On to Bethlehem Town* from the movie, *A Child's Christmas in Wales*

Hearing the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit prepare the way into our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we might see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Micah 5:2-5a 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. ³Therefore 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. ⁴And 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; ⁵and he shall be the one of peace.

Hymn *like a child* STF2092

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:39-45 ³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a