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COF Worship, December 20, 2020, 10:30 am

Fourth Sunday of Advent—Love

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Candles

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.
As the Lord has promised, in days to come . . .

The Lord will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child.
She shall bear a son, and name him Emmanuel, *God is with us.*

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 163-4). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

Opening Prayer

L: Let us pray: **God of grace, your eternal Word took flesh among us when Mary placed her life at the service of your will. Forgive when we are reluctant to place our lives at your service. 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. Amen. (moment of silence)** Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 179). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

O God, Hear us now as we pray together the prayer that Christ taught us: **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.**

Song: *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You (11)*

*O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, Lord most holy, a lamp within my breast,
To do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.*

*Love caused your incarnation, love brought you down to me;
Your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.
O love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace
In love all loves excelling our lost and fallen race.*

*A glorious crown you gave me, a treasure safe on high,
That will not fail nor leave me as earthly riches fly.
My heart shall bloom forever for you with praises now
And from your name shall never withhold the honor due.*

Prayer for Illumination

Lord God,
pour out your Spirit upon us
to bring good news to the oppressed,
and let your word be fulfilled among us;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 70). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

Scripture Luke 1:26-38 ²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Hymn O Come, O Come Emmanuel (9)

*O come, o come Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel
Who mourns in lowly exile here until the son of God appear
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee o Israel*

*O come thou dayspring come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel.*

*O Come, desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife and discord cease, fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to the O Israel.*

Scripture Luke 1:46-55 ⁴⁶And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever." ⁵⁶And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

Sermon *Seasons of Love*

Affirmation of Faith *Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by
the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he
rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the
right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to
judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the
communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the
body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Special Music

Offering Prayer *Thank you to all who continue to give!*

Let us pray: We give thanks to you, O Lord our God, each one of us with our whole heart, and also with the whole heart of this community of faith. For the gifts you have given to us we will glorify your name forever. Accept our offering today, of heart, of love, of time, talents and financial resources and lead us to use them with care and boldness, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Celebration of Holy Communion

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe...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!

You are holy, O God of majesty...that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen.

Great is the mystery of faith: **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 387). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

Mighty God, holy is your name. We thank you for gathering us at your table and feeding us with the bread of life. As we leave this table to go to the many places where you call us, send your Spirit to accompany us, so that we may share in your magnificent work: lifting up those who are laid low, showing mercy to all in need of human kindness, and feeding the bodies and hearts of all those who are hungry. Amen.

Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 174). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

Song: Watchman, Tell Us of the Night (20)

*Watchman, tell us of the night, what its signs of promise are
Traveler, o'er yon mountains height, see that glory beaming star.
Watchman, does its beauteous ray aught of joy or hope foretell?
Traveler, yes, it brings the day, promised day of Israel.*

*Watchman, tell us of the night, higher yet that star ascends,
Traveler, blessedness and light, peace and truth its course portends.
Watchman, will its beams alone gild the spot that gave them birth?
Traveler, ages are its own; see it burst o'er all the earth.*

*Watchman, tell us of the night, for the morning seems to dawn;
Traveler, darkness takes its flight, doubt and terror are withdrawn.
Watchman, let your wanderings cease; hasten to your quiet home.
Traveler, lo, the Prince of Peace, lo, the Son of God is come.*

Charge and Benediction