



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 18, 2022
11:00 AM



CHURCH LIFE UPDATE

Steven Phillips

PRELUDE

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!
(The Handbell Choir)

Arr. Kevin McChesney

* LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

David, Denise, Connor, and Hazel Landers

As we light our fourth Advent candle,
we rejoice with Mary, for Love has flesh
Come now, O Child of Mary.
Come now, O Prince of Joy.

* HYMN 143

Angels, From the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE

Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
you, who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!

Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant light:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!

Sages, leave your contemplations;
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations;
you have seen his natal star:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!

All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Hazel Landers

**Holy God, who has set us apart from the world
to bear the light of Christ within it,
we confess that we often fail to let your light shine.
We tend to focus on the darkness around us
instead of the light within us.
We see the problems and forget to look for the possibilities.
We forget to look for you.**

**Forgive us, O Lord. Shine upon, within, and among us!
For the sake of all creation. And for the glory of your name.**
(silent prayer)

** Those who are able are invited to stand.*

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Timothy Boggess

* SONG OF JOY

What Child is This

GREENSLEEVES

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!

* THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANTHEM

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
(The Chancel Choir with Isaac Mingus, cellist)

Arr. Josh Sparkman

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 the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the sun 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!"

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 1:18-25

Pages 877

SERMON

Getting Joseph Right Side Up

Timothy Boggess

SOLO

A Christmas Song Words and music by Ariel Quintana
(Matt Jarvis with the Chancel Choir)

It was cold, dark, maybe snowing,
and the stars were late to show.
And the world seemed unaware of
the birth of a baby boy.

Chorus

And the skies were filled with glory
as the angels sang for joy;
for they heard such heavenly music
in the cry of a baby boy.

What a miracle and wonder,
what a mystery, what a joy!
That this baby's first night's crying
was a song of hope for all. **(Chorus)**

Bridge

And the heaven's looked in wonder,
and a star lit up and glowed.
For in Bethlehem he's crying,
little baby, Christ the Lord.

When you hear a baby crying,
when you see a baby boy,
don't forget you see and listen
to a heaven-sent new joy. **(Chorus and Bridge)**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Timothy Boggess

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The Confession of 1967
Hazel Landers

**Biblical visions and images of the rule of Christ
culminate in the image of the kingdom.
The kingdom represents the triumph of God
over all that resists God's will and disrupts God's creation.
Already God's reign is present as a ferment in the world,
stirring hope in humankind and preparing the world
to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption.**

**With an urgency born of this hope,
the church applies itself to present tasks
and strives for a better world.
It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth,
nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat.
In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement
to the final triumph of God.**

*** HYMN 146**

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

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!

*** BENEDICTION**

Timothy Boggess

POSTLUDE

Christmas Joy
(The Handbell Choir)

Arr. Jason Krug



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