FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 19, 2021
11:00 AM



CHURCH LIFE UPDATE Steven Phillips

PRELUDE *God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen* arr. Anna Laura Page
(Handbell Choir)

***CALL TO WORSHIP AND ADVENT CANDLE-LIGHTING** Bob and Beverley Scholten

Blessed are those who believe that God's word finds fulfillment.

(Four Advent candles are lit.)

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.

***HYMN 108 (vv. 1, 3, 5 & 6)** *Of the Father's Love Begotten* Divinum Mysterium

Of the Father's love begotten,
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega;
He the source, the ending he,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore!

O, that birth forever blessed
When the Virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
Bore the Savior of our race,
And the babe, the world's Redeemer,
First revealed his sacred face,
Evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of heaven, adore him.
Angel hosts, his praises sing.
Powers, dominions, bow before him,
And extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent;
Every voice in concert ring,
Evermore and evermore!

Christ, to thee with God the Father,
And, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
And unwearied praises be.
Honor, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory,
Evermore and evermore! Amen.

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Margaret LaMotte Torrence

Holy God,
We gather as your people, moved by
the beauty of this room,
the memories that fill our hearts,
the need that is etched on our neighbor's face,
the fathomless gift of your love.

Forgive our half-hearted incarnations of that love.
Come to us now, until we
trust you more than the governors of this world,
receive the witness of unlikely angels,
amaze our neighbors with unsettling news,
and tremble with a joy that must be shared.

(silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

***SONG OF JOY** *Glory to God* Taizé

Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, gloria! Alleluia, alleluia!

Glory to God, glory to God! Glory in the highest!
Glory to God, glory to God! Alleluia, alleluia!

***THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:39-55

SERMON *From Generation to Generation* Margaret LaMotte Torrence

ANTHEM *The Joy of Mary (Magnificat)* Don Neuen

My soul doth magnify the Lord;
And my spirit doth rejoice
In God my Savior.
For he that is mighty hath done great things,
And holy is his name!

His mercy is on them that fear him
From generation to generation.
Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
For he has visited and redeemed his people.

SERVICE OF ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

STATEMENT ON ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Do you believe in God, the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
Born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate
Was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,
And he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting. Amen.

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS FOR THE CONGREGATION Elder Denise Landers

Do we, as members of the church, accept these officers, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation, to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

We do.

Do we agree to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is head of the Church?

We do.

PRAYER OF ORDINATION

DECLARATION AND CHARGE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Steven Phillips

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.

***HYMN 110** *Love Has Come* Bring a Torch

Love has come: a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
Hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;
What is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers.
Love! Love! Jesus, Emmanuel.

Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

***BENEDICTION** Margaret LaMotte Torrence

POSTLUDE *On Christmas Night All Christians Sing* arr. Lloyd Larson
(Handbell Choir)