

First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem

Third Sunday of Advent

Digital Traditional Service

December 13, 2020



The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE "Alleluia" from Christmas Oratorio Camile Saint-Saens/arr. D. Bish

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PASSING THE PEACE

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING RESPONSE

#9

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Verse 3

VENI EMMANUEL

3 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. (Refrain)

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

OPENING HYMN

#3

Comfort, Comfort You My People

PSALM 42

1 Comfort, comfort you my people,
Tell of peace, thus saith our God;
Comfort those who sit in darkness
Bowed beneath oppression's load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem
Of the peace that waits for them;
Tell them that their sins I cover,
And their warfare now is over.

2 For the herald's voice is crying
In the desert far and near,
Bidding us to make repentance

Since the kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise in meeting
And the hills bow down in greeting.

3 Make ye straight what long was crooked,
Make the rougher places plain:
Let your hearts be true and humble,
As befits God's holy reign,
For the glory of the Lord
Now o'er earth is shed abroad;
And all flesh shall see the token
That God's word is never broken.

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and Loving God, you sent Jesus Christ to us to bring good news to the oppressed and to bind up the brokenhearted; to proclaim liberty to the captives, and to comfort those who mourn. But as followers of Christ, too often we do not share those promises with others. We offer our pity to the oppressed instead of your good news; we encourage the brokenhearted to bind themselves up; we wonder what the captives did to deserve their captivity; we avoid those who mourn out of our own discomfort and fear. Forgive us, Lord, and send your Spirit upon us anew, so that we may have the strength and courage to fulfill your calling and be ministers of your love, justice, mercy, and peace.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE LISTEN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Leader: The word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON

The Rev. J.C. Austin

“Rising in the Ruins”

WE RESPOND

HYMN

#16

The Angel Gabriel's from Heaven Came

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE

1 The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
With wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame.
"All hail," said he, "O lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

2 "How blest among all women you shall be,
Whom ev'ry age will praise continually.
Your Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
"Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

3 Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head.
"To me be as it pleases God," she said.
"My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name."
Most highly favored lady. Gloria!

4 Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn.
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
"Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

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.

CALL FOR OFFERING

Call to Give

Offertory In the Bleak Midwinter

Gustav Holst/arr. B. Deamer

Rebecca Erhardt, Soprano

*Response - #592

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him, above ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost

*Prayer of Dedication

CLOSING HYMN

462

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

RATISBON

1 Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true, the only Light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise,

Triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near;
Day-star, in my heart appear.

2 Dark and cheerless is the morn
Unaccompanied by Thee;
Joyless is the day's return
Till Thy mercy's beams I see,
Till they inward light impart,
Cheer my eyes and warm my heart.

3 Visit then this soul of mine;
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
Fill me, Radiance divine;
Scatter all my unbelief;
More and more Thyself display,
Shining to the perfect day.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts" from Christmas Oratorio

Camile Saint-Saens/arr. D. Bish