

# First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem

## Second Sunday of Advent

### Digital Traditional Service

December 6, 2020



### *The Service for the Lord's Day*

#### WE GATHER

PRELUDE Noel!

Henri Mulet

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PASSING THE PEACE

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING RESPONSE

#9

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Verse 2

VENI EMMANUEL

2 O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

OPENING HYMN

#20

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

ABERSTWYTH

1 Watchman, tell us of the night,  
What its signs of promise are.  
Traveler, o'er yon mountain's 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.

2 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 bursts o'er all the earth.

3 Watchman, tell us of the night,  
For the morning seems to dawn.  
Traveler, darkness takes its flight,  
Doubt and terror are withdrawn.  
Watchman, let thy wanderings cease;  
Hasten to your quiet home.  
Traveler, lo! the Prince of Peace,  
Lo! the Son of God is come!

### *WE CONFESS*

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, through John the Baptist you call to us from the wilderness; you call for us to go into the wilderness and help prepare your way there, the way of the coming Christ. But we find it easy to tune out those calls. We resist going into the unknowns of our lives and our world and cling to what we know, even if what we know is not life-giving. Forgive us, Lord. Open our ears to hear your call. Fill our hearts with the courage and faith and hope to answer that call. And strengthen our hands to join in the work of preparing your way and making your path straight to bring your gracious, saving love to every corner of this world.**

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

### *WE LISTEN*

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

#### SCRIPTURE Mark 1:1-8

Leader: The word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God**

#### SERMON

The Rev. J.C. Austin

“Lifting the Valley”

## WE RESPOND

### HYMN

#14

Savior of the Nations, Come

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

1 Savior of the nations, come;  
Virgin's Son, here make Your home.

Marvel now, O heaven and earth,  
That the Lord chose such a birth.

2 From the Godhead forth You came,  
And return unto the same,  
Captive leading death and hell.  
High the song of triumph swell!

3 You, the chosen Holy One,  
Have ov'r sin the victory won.  
Boundless shall Your kingdom be;  
When shall we its glories see?

4 Brightly does Your manger shine,  
Glorious is its light divine.  
Let not sin o'ercloud this light;  
Ever be our faith thus bright.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### CALL FOR OFFERING

Call to Give

#### Offertory

Lo, How a Rose 'er Blooming

ES IST EIN' ROS'

Rebecca Erhardt, Soprano

1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming  
From tender stem hath sprung.  
Of Jesse's lineage coming,  
By faithful prophets sung.  
It came a floweret bright,  
Amid the cold of winter,  
When half spent was the night.

2 Isaiah 'twas foretold it,  
The rose I have in mind,  
With Mary we behold it,

The virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright  
She bore for us a Savior,  
When half spent was the night.

**\*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**

**WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER**

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

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

**People: It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Leader: It is truly right and our greatest joy to  
give you thanks and praise...  
As our Savior Christ has taught us,  
so now we pray:

The 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.**

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Meditation

Charles-Edouard Lefebvre

## CLOSING HYMN

#13

Prepare the Way

BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

1 Prepare the way, O Zion,  
your Christ is drawing near!  
Let every hill and valley  
a level way appear.  
Greet One who comes in glory,  
foretold in sacred story.  
Oh blest is Christ that came  
in God's most holy name.

2 Christ brings God's rule, O Zion;  
he comes from heaven above.  
His rule is peace and freedom,  
and justice, truth, and love.  
Lift high your praise resounding,  
for grace and joy abounding.  
Oh blest is Christ that came  
in God's most holy name.

3 Fling wide your gates, O Zion;  
your Savior's rule embrace.  
His tidings of salvation  
proclaim in every place.  
All lands will bow before him,  
their voices will adore him.  
Oh blest is Christ that came  
in God's most holy name.

## BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE People, Look East

setting J. Daryl Hollinger