

First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Digital Contemporary Service

December 20, 2020



CONGREGATIONAL SONGS OF PRAISE

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?

Refrain:

This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come one and all, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

In the Bleak Midwinter

CRANHAM

In the bleak midwinter,
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter,
Long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him,
Nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When He comes to reign:
In the bleak midwinter
A stable place sufficed
The Lord God incarnate,
Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels
May have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim
Thronged the air;
But His mother only,
In her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the beloved
With a kiss.

What can I give Him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man,
I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him:
Give my heart.

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PASSING THE PEACE

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Verse 4

VENI EMMANUEL

O come the King of nations bring
An end to all our suffering
Bid every pain and sorrow cease
And reign now as our Prince of Peace.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, like Mary we are often perplexed when receiving your greetings, and wonder what they may be. But instead of listening closely and responding faithfully, as she did, we turn away. We tell ourselves that we are imagining things, that there's not much we could do of any importance anyway; we are afraid of what your call might involve, and what it might cost us. Forgive us, Lord; help us to listen for your call to us and to respond with faith and boldness, "let it be with me according to your word."

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:26-38

SERMON

"Do Not Be Afraid"

The Rev. J.C. Austin

SONG OF PRAISE

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

PICARDY

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded,
For with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
Our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
In the body and the blood;
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of Light descendeth
From the realms of endless day,
That the powers of hell may vanish
As the darkness clears away.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

SONG OF PRAISE

Soon and Very Soon

Andrea Crouch

Soon and very soon
We are going to see the King
Soon and very soon
We are going to see the King
Soon and very soon
We are going to see the King
Hallelujah, hallelujah
We're going to see the king

No more cryin there
We are going to see the King
No more cryin there
We are going to see the King
No more cryin there
We are going to see the King
Hallelujah, hallelujah
We're going to see the King

No more dying there
We are going to see the King
No more dying there
We are going to see the King
No more dying there
We are going to see the King
Hallelujah hallelujah
Hallelujah, hallelujah
We're going to see the King
We're going to see the King

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE