

The Falls Village Congregational Church

December 20, 2020 10 a.m.

4th Sunday in Advent

The Reverend Richard W. Reifsnyder, Worship Leader

Welcome and Announcements

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude *Pastoral Symphony* (from *Messiah*) G. F. Handel

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE

Call to Worship

Into our world, as into Mary's womb...

Come, Lord Jesus.

Into the forgotten places, as into the stable...

Come, Lord Jesus.

Into the lives of the poor, bringing hope;

Into the lives of the powerful, bringing humility;

Into the lives of the weary, bringing rest;

Into our lives and longing, whatever our situation.

Come, Lord Jesus, and bring your good news.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath (see insert)

Old Testament scripture: 2 Samuel 7:8-9, 16

Song #121: *Prepare the Way of the Lord* 2x

Call to Prayer:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Collect for 4th Sunday in Advent (Unison):

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Heavenly Father, when we have forgotten what Advent is about, forgive us. When we focus on making the list and checking it twice, forgive us. When we look to our own comforts, rather than caring for our brothers and sisters, forgive us. By your grace, remove the blinders of our consumer mindset so that we may see and truly celebrate the arrival of our salvation through Jesus, Emmanuel, God be with us. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

Responsive Reading- Song of Mary (Magnificat), p. 131

Response: My soul gives glory to my God,

my heart pours out its praise

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

My spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

Who has looked with favor on me, a lowly servant.

From this day all generations shall call be blessed:

The Almighty has done great things for me

and holy is the name of the Lord,

whose mercy is on those who fear God

from generation to generation. R

The arm of the Lord is strong,

and has scattered the proud in their conceit

God has cast down the mighty from their thrones

and lifted up the lowly.

God has filled the hungry with good things,

and sent the rich away empty.

God has come to the aid of Israel, the chosen servant,

remembering the promise of mercy,

The promise made to our forbears.

To Abraham and to his children forever. R

Gloria Patri

#35 in hymnal

Passing the Peace of Christ:

The Peace of Christ be with you

And also with you

Let us pass the peace

Scripture Luke 1:26-38

Prayer

Sermon: “How Can This Be?”

The Rev. Richard W. Reifsnyder

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

The Offertory *The King Shall Come* L. Larson

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

THE CHURCH DISPERSES TO SERVE

Hymn # 143 *Joy to the World* vv. 1,3

Benediction

Benediction Response

God Be With You Till We Meet Again

4th Sunday in Advent – The Candle of Love

Introduction and relighting of 2 purple candles and the pink

(light the 3rd purple candle)

Listen to God's promises made to the lineage of David in 2 Samuel 7: 8—9, 16.

⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth... ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Let us pray together

God of Promise, come into our darkness.

Renew your hope in us,

for you alone bring life out of death. Amen

Song: "Prepare the Way of the Lord" J. Berthier (Taizé Community)

Prepare the way of the Lord, Prepare the way of the Lord

And all the people will see the salvation or our God (2x)

Psalm 103; 52:10

Prepare the Way of the Lord

121

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. It consists of two staves of music. The first staff begins with a circled '1' above the first measure and a circled '2' above the second measure. The second staff begins with a circled '3' above the first measure and a circled '4' above the second measure. The lyrics are: "Pre - pare the way of the Lord. Pre- pare the way of the Lord, and all peo- ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God. Pre -".

LUKE 1: 26-38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Joy to the World

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re-
 2. Joy to the world, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 songs em - ploy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness,

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

And heaven and na - ture sing, and
 Re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
 And won - ders of his love, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing,
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,
 peat the sound - ing joy,