

December 18, 2022
10:00 am
Fourth Sunday of Advent

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

Wilbur Held

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN NO. 95

“Prepare the Way of the Lord”

PREPARE THE WAY

Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord,
and all people will see the salvation of our God.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Lighting the candles today is the DeRuyter family

HYMN NO. 104

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

1. O Lord, how shall I meet you , how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart’s delight!
O kindle, Lord most holy, a lamp within my breast,
to do in spirit lowly, all that may please you best.
2. Love caused your incarnation; love brought you down to me;
your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.
O love beyond all telling; that led you to embrace
in love, all loves excelling, our lost and fallen race.
3. You come, O Lord, with gladness, in mercy and goodwill,
to bring an end to sadness and bid our fears be still.
In patient expectation we live for that great day
when your renewed creation your glory shall display.

OPENING PRAYER

Eternal God, in long ago days, your Son was born to lighten our darkness. Even so, we remain in bondage to signs of darkness. We doubt what we cannot prove; we ignore what we cannot see; and finding little room for faith, we must admit:

We suspect angels and disbelieve Good News.

We are both affected and infected by the spirits of our times. Rather than embrace the light, we become fascinated by the darkness and we must admit.

We suspect angels and disbelieve Good News.

Our cynicism is the fruit of our experience but is not the key to the future. Our suspiciousness helps us smell the rat but not to recognize the dove and we must admit.

We suspect angels and disbelieve Good News. As Christmas approaches, restore to us a child-like wonder. May we be like Mary and Joseph and the shepherds who encountered angels and believed the Good News and recognized Christ among them. Amen.

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Adult Education

FAMILY CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

(The songs are interspersed through the program. Remain seated while singing)

HYMN NO. 105 vs. 1, 4

“People, Look East”

BESANCON

1. People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able; trim the hearth and set the table.
People look east and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way.
4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more night the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.
People look east and sing today: Love, the Star, is on the way.

HYMN NO. 113 vs 1,3

“Angels We Have Heard on High ”

GLORIA

1. Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!
3. Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord. The newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

HYMN NO. 115

“Away in a Manger ”

MUELLER

1. Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
2. The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.
3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray
Bless all dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

SONG

“The Little Drummer Boy ”

Come they told me, pa rum pum pum pum
A newborn King to see, pa rum pum pum pum
Our finest gifts we bring, pa rum pum pum pum
To lay before the King, pa rum pum pum pum
Rum pum pum pum, rum pum pum pum
So to honor Him, pa rum pum pum pum
When we come
Little Baby, pa rum pum pum pum
I am a poor boy too, pa rum pum pum pum
I have no gift to bring, pa rum pum pum pum
That's fit to give the King, pa rum pum pum pum
Rum pum pum pum, rum pum pum pum
Shall I play for you, pa rum pum pum pum
On my drum?
Mary nodded, pa rum pum pum pum
The ox and lamb kept time, pa rum pum pum pum

I played my drum for Him, pa rum pum pum pum
I played my best for Him, pa rum pum pum pum
Rum pum pum pum, rum pum pum pum
Then He smiled at me, pa rum pum pum pum
Me and my drum

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER OF BLESSING FOR OUR CHILDREN

Give thanks to God for all God's blessing,

God's love is everlasting!

Come, let us praise God joyfully,

Let us come to God with thanksgiving.

For children, for their energy, for their curiosity,

For their brave play and startling frankness.

For their sudden sympathies

Thank you God!

For the young, for their high hopes,

Dreams of a better world, and their solemn vows.

Their restlessness with worn-out values,

Thank you God!

For family,

For living together and eating together.

For playing together and praying together,

Thank you God!

We thank you God for these your children,

Whom have been placed in our lives,

To raise and to teach, to love and to care for,

For this privilege, we give you praise and thanksgiving. Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

EXPRESSING OUR GRATITUDE

*HYMN NO. 136

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain "

GO TELL IT

***Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!***

1. While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

Refrain

2. The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.

Refrain

3. Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us the salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"O Come All Ye Faithful"

Gordon Young

****Please rise in body or in spirit***