

Service for the Lord's Day

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 20, 2015

Enter the house of God and await the coming of the King!

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

(each person prays silently)

A Child will come from Bethlehem to redeem the people of God

Gathering

PRELUDE

“Pastorale”
“Rondo Espressivo”

J.S.Bach
C.P.E. Bach

WELCOME

Bill Stanley

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Members of the Sunday School classes

Now let us pray together:

Thank you God for the joy you bring to us. We ask that as we wait for all your promises to come true, and for Christ to come again, that you would remain present. Help us today to worship you, to hear your Word, and to do your will by sharing your joy with each other and with your world. We ask it in the name of the Holy One, born in Bethlehem. Amen

*INTROIT #98

“To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary” (v.1&2)

Grindal, 1982

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Not in the mighty places of power, but in lowly Bethlehem, in a room out back.

The Messiah is coming!

Not born in nobility and wealth, but of Mary and Joseph, who pondered and set wood.

The Messiah is coming!

Not announced by prophets, priests, and kings, but by two women, who were the first to know.

The Messiah is coming!

Nothing will be impossible for God, but when we least expect it, look among the straw.

Praise God! The Messiah is coming!

*HYMN #98

“To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary” (v.3-6)

CALL TO CONFESSION

In the world, and in this season, there are many claims on our lives. We acknowledge before God and one another that we have not followed Jesus with all our heart and mind and strength. Yet, trusting in God's grace, let us pray – first silently, then together using the words in the bulletin.

SILENT PRAYER

(A time of silence for personal prayer)

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God whom we blame for all of our troubles, forgive us for the hurts we inflict on others in the name of love, justice, family, or faith. You know how we have sought to keep your joy only for our families, to hoard your peace only for ourselves, to build walls from our fears and to keep the outsiders far from us. Compassionate God, remind us of the failed opportunities we had to offer hope to those around us. Merciful Creator, be gracious to us for not noticing the loneliness of a widower, the pressures faced by a single parent, the anguished heart of a teenager, the hunger of a homeless child. Forgive us, and give us your grace to try once again. We pray in the name of your Holy Child. Amen.

LORD HAVE MERCY

Kyrie Eleison

“Lord, have mercy upon us,
Christ have mercy upon us, Lord have mercy upon us.”

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

O Beloved of God, the One who came so long ago continues to draw near to us, offering forgiveness and healing to us all. In Emmanuel's name, we are forgiven.

O Healer of all brokenness, we rejoice that your touch is gentle, your grace is healing, and your peace is forever. We trust in your mercy. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

#580

Proclaiming

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE

Micah 5: 2-5a

Bibles, p.815/LG. p.1059

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

HYMN #110

“Love Has Come”

Bible, 1996

SECOND SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:39-45

Bibles, p.53/ LG. p.69

The Word of God, for the People of God

Thanks be to God

SERMON

“Leap for Joy!”

Rev. Candice L. Klein

Responding

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

“The Christian Church is the congregation of the brethren in which Jesus Christ acts

presently as the Lord in Word and Sacrament through the Holy Spirit. As the church of pardoned sinners, it has to testify in the midst of a sinful world, with its faith as with its obedience, with its message as with its order, that it is solely his property, and that it lives and wants to live solely from his comfort and from his direction in the expectation of his appearance.” This, we believe. Amen. – *The Theological Declaration of Barmen* 8.17

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

MINISTRY OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ***“What is this Lovely Fragrance?”*** Trad French Carol

*DOXOLOGY

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Sending

*HYMN #88 ***“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (v.5&6)*** Helmore, 1852

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE #88 ***“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (v.7)***

POSTLUDE ***“In Dulce Jubilo”*** arr. Smith

(*) Those who are able may stand.

Bold italic letters indicate congregational responses.

This week’s prayers and concerns: Jane & Tolly Dill, Diane Dill, Michael Dill, Cindy Ratliff, Debbie Murphy, Jack Clark and family

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mon. 12/21	Adopt-A-Block	4:30pm
Thur. 12/24	Christmas Eve Worship	5:30pm
Sun. 12/27	Christmas Carol Sing!	
Mon. 12/28	Pipeline Deadline	

Pastor: Rev. Candice L. Klein 903-392-8443 fpchendersonrev@aol.com
Church Secretary: Lisa Temple Director of Music: Mark Reeves, CAGO
Custodian: Bob Schauwecker Nursery Attendant: Martha Baughman