

SERMON

"JOSEPH HAD A DREAM...."

Rev. Michele R. Goff

DESCRIPTION OF PRAISE

— *Response* —

HYMN #138 "WHO WOULD THINK THAT WHAT WAS NEEDED" Bell/Maule, 1992

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.19

Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus. His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God. He was the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel, the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of the new humanity. He gave history its meaning and direction and called the church to be his servant for the reconciliation of the world.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Gathered here, in the house of the Lord, let us pray for the coming of Christ's realm. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

LORD'S PRAYER - UNISON

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.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all people here below; Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God whom we adore. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION - UNISON**

Eternal God, as we wait for the fulfillment of your reign, use these gifts and the gifts of our lives to bring justice to those who are oppressed, to set free those who are in prison, to lift up those who are bowed down, and to uphold those who are vulnerable. Amen.

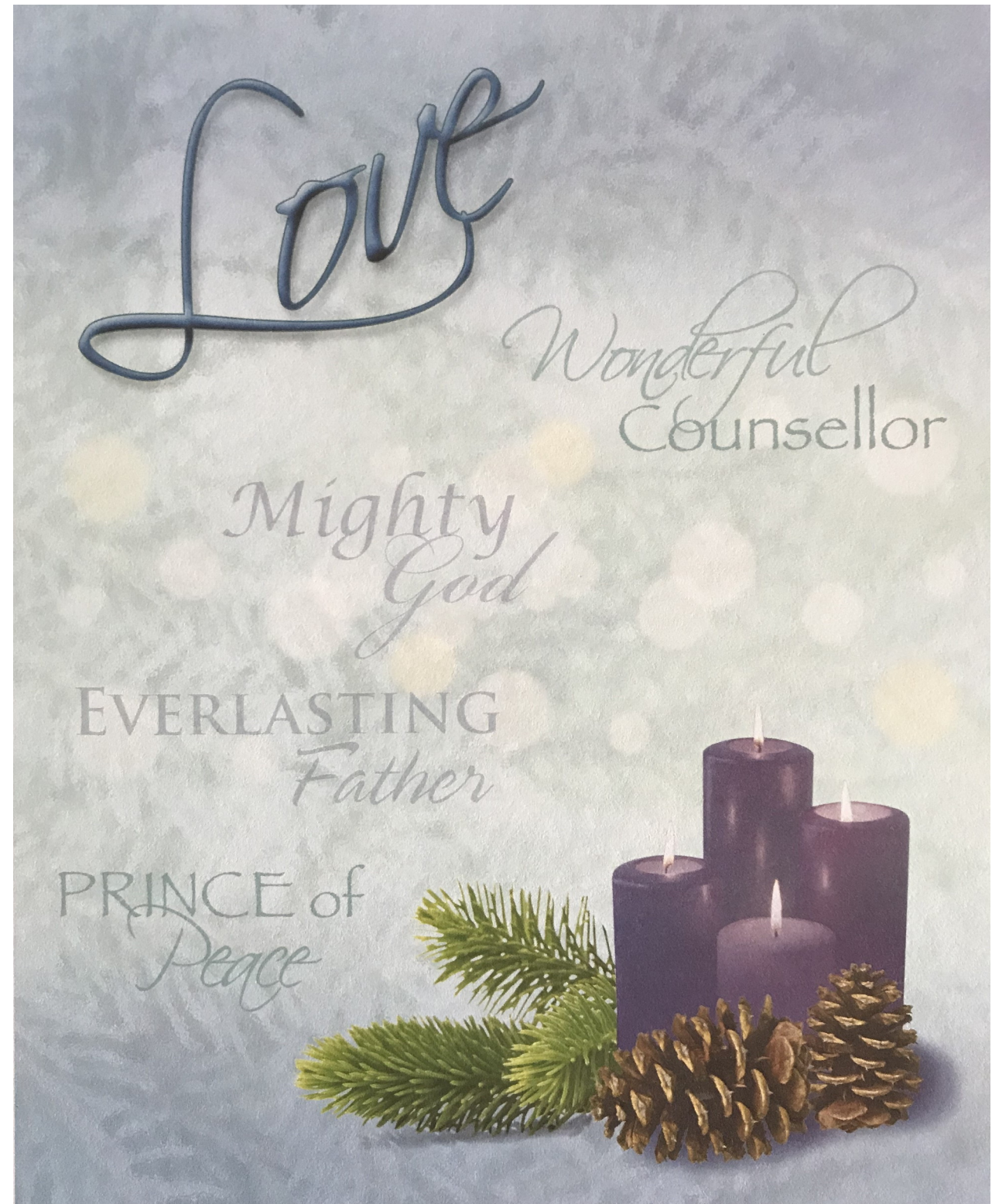
— *Sending* —

***HYMN #136 "GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN"** J.W. Work, 1940

***BLESSING AND CHARGE**

***CLOSING RESPONSE #95 "PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD"** Taize

***POSTLUDE**



(*) Please rise in body or in spirit.
Bold italic letters indicate congregational responses.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2019

Service for the Lord's Day

— Gathering —

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Mary will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Lord of Dreams and Promises, revive us so that we may embrace the gift of the incarnation. Amen.

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

"READY THE WAY"

Chancel Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP - RESPONSIVE

Look, O house of David!

The Lord will give you a sign:

The young woman shall bear a child;

She shall name him Immanuel—

God is with us.

Listen, O house of David! The Lord draws near.

With joy in our hearts, let us worship God!

Liturgist - John Tieken

*HYMN #143

"ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY"

Montgomery, 1816

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Isaiah spoke to a people called chosen,
to a tribe called Israel, with a light of hope.

Gabriel came to a town called Nazareth,

to a girl called Mary, with a light of joy.

Mary went to a place called Bethlehem,

to a stable called a nursery, with a light of love.

As we light our fourth Advent candle, ***we rejoice with Mary, for Love has flesh.***

Come now, O child of Mary. ***Come now, O Prince of Love.***

HYMN #89 "FOR YOU, O LORD, MY SOUL IN STILLNESS WAITS" (vs.4,5) Haugen, 1982

CONFESSION - UNISON

SILENT REFLECTION

(A time of silence for personal reflection.)

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel!

You call us each by name and invite us to follow you.

But we—like sheep—do not heed your voice; we stray from your path.
Now we call upon your name. Save us from all that ensnares our lives.

Restore us, O God! Let your face shine, that we may be saved.

You claim us for service and assure us we have nothing to fear. But, we are timid
Disciples who discount dreams and discredit messengers, for we do not believe you can
use a flock like us to usher in your reign.

Restore us, O God! Let your face shine, that our faith may be made strong.

You come among us to enfold us with love. As we await the babe of Bethlehem, give us
the steadfast faith of Joseph and the expectant hope of Mary, that we, too, may come in
wonder to worship the newborn king.

Restore us, O God! Let your face shine, that our trust may be renewed.

LORD HAVE MERCY

"Lord, have mercy upon us, Christ, have mercy upon us, Lord, have mercy upon us."

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! ***Thanks be to God.***

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all. ***And also with you.***

*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.

— Word —

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Our younger Christians are invited to come forward for their special time.

After, they are welcome to stay in the sanctuary, or may choose to go to our supervised playroom.

ANTHEM

"JESUS, WHAT A BEAUTIFUL NAME"

Chancel Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

HEBREW SCRIPTURE

ISAIAH 7: 10-16

Bibles: p.598/LG p.779

GREEK SCRIPTURE

ROMANS 1: 1-7

Bibles: p.142/LG p.184

Heaven and earth will pass away but the word of the Lord stands forever.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN #99

"MY SOUL GIVES GLORY TO MY GOD"

Winter, 1978

(SONG OF MARY)

GOSPEL SCRIPTURE

MATTHEW 1: 18-25

Bibles: p.1/LG p.1

This is the word of truth, the gospel of our salvation. ***Thanks be to God.***