



He will be named
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,
Eternal Father,
Prince of Peace.

—ISAIAH 9:6

PEACE

Bold italic letters indicate congregational responses.

Service for the Lord's Day

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2020

— Gathering —

PRELUDE

Joshua Allen

WELCOME

Rev. Michele R. Goff

OPENING SENTENCES & CANDLE LIGHTING

Jesus says: I am coming soon.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.
As the Lord has promised, in days to come . . .

The Lord will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child.

***She shall bear a son,
and name him Emmanuel: "God is with us."***

Let us walk in the light of the Lord. ***Amen.***

MUSIC

Joshua Allen

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Liturgist, Jan Pennal

CONFESSION

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin together:

O Christ, you were born in a humble stable, because there was no room for you in the inn. Forgive us when we foolishly think that there is no room for you in our lives. When we close the doors of our hearts to your word, forgive us, and burst through them with your love. When we close the doors of our minds to your challenge, forgive us, and burst through them with your love. When we close the doors of our homes, our churches, and our cities to people you would have us welcome, forgive us, and speak your angel's words to us once more: "Do not be afraid."

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Michele R. Goff

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! ***Thanks be to God.***

— Word —

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Jan Pennal

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SCRIPTURE

Rev. Michele R. Goff

Our first reading is from the letter to Titus chapter 2, verses 11 through 14. Treasure these words and ponder them in your heart.

This is the word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

Our second reading is from the gospel according to Luke chapter 2, verses 1 through 20. The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. Listen to the word of the Lord.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“Miracles in the Ordinary”

Rev. Michele R. Goff

ASCRPTION OF PRAISE

Glory to God in the highest and peace to God's people on earth! **Amen.**

— Response —

MUSIC

Joshua Allen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Jan Pennal

Rejoicing in the gift of Jesus Christ our Savior, we pray for this world that God so loves, saying: Emmanuel, come; ***O come and save us.***

With gratitude for your love, we pray for the church . . .

For the astounding and joyful news of Jesus' birth, we give you thanks and sing with the angels: Glory to God in heaven and peace to all the earth!
Emmanuel, come; ***O come and save us.***

With gratitude for your love, we pray for the world . . .

We pray for peace where there is no peace. We pray for wisdom where foolishness now reigns. As we claim the name of Christ, may we witness to your glory. Emmanuel, come; ***O come and save us.***

With gratitude for your love, we pray for this community . . .

Fill the shadowy places with your light. Let a joyful song of love be sung in every place, so that your beauty and strength may be praised.
Emmanuel, come; **O come and save us.**

With gratitude for your love, we pray for loved ones . . .

We give thanks for those you have given to us to love. As Mary pondered the wondrous event of her day, may we, deep in our hearts, hold the wonder of your love. Emmanuel, come; ***O come and save us.***

Holy One, as you have come to dwell among us, show us how to live as your faithful people, sharing the good news of your grace with all; through Christ, your Word made flesh. ***Amen.***

LORD'S PRAYER - UNISON

Jan Pennal

***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 no into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever, Amen.***

MUSIC

Joshua Allen

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Rev. Michele R. Goff

Thank you for your continued cooperation as we work to keep our sanctuary a covid - free environment. Your consistent generosity of time, talent and treasure in these extraordinary days is a testament to your character.

From the fullness of God we have all received grace upon grace.
Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Jan Pennal

God Most High, receive the gifts of our lives as an offering of gratitude for your grace. Overshadow us with your Holy Spirit and let it be with us according to your word, for nothing is impossible with you. **Amen.**

— Sending —

BLESSING AND CHARGE

Rev. Michele R. Goff

POSTLUDE

Joshua Allen



**First
Presbyterian
Church**
Henderson, Texas

Rev. Michele R. Goff.....Pastor
Joshua Allen.....Music Director
Stefen Kane.....Admin Assist.

*Serving God,
Honoring Creation,
Embracing Differences*

