

4th Sunday of Advent

December 20th, 2020

11:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

Noël VIII

Louis-Claude Daquin

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP*

INTROIT

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH*

HYMN OF PRAISE

People, Look East

BESANÇON

**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**

**Stars keep the watch when night is dim, one more light 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**

**Angels announce with shouts of mirth him who brings new life to earth
Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION*

God of Good News, you say to us, “You are highly favored,” but we struggle to see how that could be. You say to us, “Do not be afraid,” but we are afraid all the time. You say to us, “Even the impossible is possible, just look at Elizabeth!” But hope slips through our hands like water. The impossible still feels impossible. So today we pray: Teach us to sing like Mary. Teach us to laugh like Elizabeth. Teach us to trust like the angels. And forgive us when we can only do one at a time, or none at all. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE

from Romans 16:25-27

One: May the glory be to God, who strengthens us with Good News.

All: May God strengthen us with the announcement of the secret that was kept quiet for a long time.

One: May the glory be to God, who forgives us in the name of Jesus Christ.

All: May glory be to God through Jesus Christ forever! Amen!

RESPONSE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

**O come, thou Wisdom, from on high and order all things, far and nigh
To us the path of knowledge show, and cause us in her ways to go
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

During this time, we invite you to pass the peace by texting a fellow church member, family member, friend, relative, or loved one, “May the peace of Christ be with you.”

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

HEBREW BIBLE READING Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Gabriel's Message

arr. David Willcocks

The angel Gabriel from Heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame.
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!"

"For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honor thee.
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!"

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,
"My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name."
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
"Most highly favored lady, Gloria!"

GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:26-38

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Tim Reynolds

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Vision Statement of 2nd Presbyterian Church

Responding in gratitude to God's love and grace, we are a welcoming, faithful, and hopeful community, following Jesus and serving him in the world.

TIME FOR REFLECTION

Awake, Calls the Voice to Us

J.S. Bach

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING & INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

HYMN OF SENDING

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

REJOICE

Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning

Sing out your joy, for soon he is born. Behold! The Child of our longing

Come as a baby weak and poor to bring all hearts together

He opens wide the heavenly door and lives now inside us forever

To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Emmanuel comes a-singing
His humble song is quiet and near, yet fills the earth with its ringing
Music to heal the broken soul and hymns of loving kindness
The thunder of his anthems roll to shatter all hatred and blindness

Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, though dark the winter and cheerless
The rising sun shall crown you with light, be strong and loving and fearless
Love be our song and love our prayers and love our endless story
May God fill every day we share and bring us at last into glory

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

POSTLUDE *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come* *Johann Pachelbel*

*Adapted from a liturgy/prayer by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Tim Reynolds – Pastor

Sarah Morgan – Pastor

Helen Grant – Liturgist

Matthew Mimbs – Director of Music & Arts

David Stultz – Asst. Director of Music/Organist

2nd Presbyterian Chancel Choir

Technicians: Matt Casey (video), Paul Sexauer (audio)

PRAYER CONCERNS

The Goslee family, Mary and Frances Johnson, Beth and Daniel Robertson, Kay Weaver, the Stultz family, the Bartlett family, Harriet Campbell, Frieda Sims, Imogene Posey, Katie Sergent Keene, Betty McCollum, Emily Rose, Dr. Ed Carver, Aggie Bell, Dotty Barbour, Donna Downen, Douglas Hamilton, and Jennifer Levy-Tatum.

*Please notify the office if you are sick, in the hospital, or have a prayer request.
Names remain on the prayer list 4 weeks unless requested to keep them on longer.

WORSHIP & CELEBRATION

UPCOMING SERMON TEXTS AND TOPICS: We are currently following the Revised Common Lectionary. Our Advent theme is *Those Who Dream...* Upcoming sermon texts/topics are:

Dec 20	Luke 1:26-38	<i>Those Who Dream...</i> are not alone (Love)
Dec 24	Luke 2:1-20	This Night, We Are... <i>Those Who Dream</i>
Dec 27	Luke 2:22-40	<i>Those Who Dream...</i> will not keep silent
Jan 3	Matthew 2:1-12	<i>Those Who Dream...</i> persevere

THE LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE WILL BE HELD virtually on Zoom tomorrow evening, December 21st at 5:30 p.m. During this Advent season that is occurring during a pandemic, we are all grieving the loss of something. Join us as we pray, read Scripture, sing, and are reminded that even though we may be alone in our homes, we are not alone. God's presence is with us and God's light shines in the darkness. If you are on our email list, you will be sent the Zoom link automatically on that Monday morning. If you are not on our email list and would like the link, please let Audrey know (ajohnson@2ndpres.org). We are also including the link below. The passcode, if asked for one, is: *Blue*.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85853983094?pwd=b2ZoSm�0VFdJaDNHYVBXUnhFY0ExZz09>

OUR CHRISTMAS EVE CAROL AND CANDLELIGHT SERVICE will be held virtually at 5:30 pm on December 24th. This will be a streaming service, like on Sunday mornings. A link will be sent that day, or you can click the button on the home page of our website. As we normally do on Christmas Eve, we will light candles and sing *Silent Night* as part of the service. For those who need them, candles are now available in the vestibule at the church. If you prefer to have candles brought to you, please contact Audrey in the church office.

THE PRESCHOOL CHILDREN RECORDED THEIR CHRISTMAS PROGRAM this year so their family and friends could watch from the safety of their own home. If you would like to see the program, it is available on our YouTube channel. Just visit this link to watch – <https://youtu.be/t7fwlDsdJ4>.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY SECOND EDITION is today! Please call or email Audrey with your submissions.

FELLOWSHIP & CONGREGATIONAL CARE

A PASTORAL CARE PAGE is on our website under the 'About Us' tab. For the password to access, please contact the church office.

MEALS FOR THE HOMEBOUND: If you are interested in joining a cooking team to prepare meals for some of our homebound members, please contact Leslie Matthews at flowlilly@gmail.com or 865.765.0549.

DRIVE-THRU CAROLING: Thanks to everyone who came out and sang and to all who drove through for the caroling. It was great to see everyone! Special thanks to Charles White, Marty McLean, and Jan Barber for the hot chocolate, candy canes, warm fire, and Christmas Tree!

DISCIPLESHIP

OUR WEDNESDAY NIGHT ZOOM BIBLE STUDY IS ON HIATUS through the end of the year. Details on upcoming studies will be communicated in January.

FAITH, SCIENCE AND THE FUTURE SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS meets at 9:30 a.m. by conference call.

SERVICE & OUTREACH

DONATIONS OF STUFFED ANIMALS are being collected by the Second Readers. Donations can be dropped off in the vestibule outside the atrium Monday-Thursday between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

DONATIONS OF HATS, MITTENS AND GLOVES for the Westview Elementary clothes closet may be placed on the tree in the vestibule Monday-Thursday between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

FISH FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED. Second has participated in the Fish Food Pantry for decades. To continue to effectively carry out this long-time mission of the church, we are very much in need of more participants. We will evaluate whether to re-start our participation in January, please consider joining the effort. Contact Dick Dodson, rtdodson52@gmail.com or 865-414-7413 to volunteer.

STEWARDSHIP

THE CHURCH BUILDING IS CURRENTLY CLOSED by order of the Session. The church staff is currently working from home. The vestibule is open during the day so that drop offs and deliveries can take place, however, the building is still closed. There should be no reason for anyone to come into the church building. Thank you for your consideration and help to keep everyone safe!

THE STAFF WILL BE OFF Thursday and Friday of this week for Christmas.