

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

12-20-2015

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING BLESSING

CONFESSION.....

P: We confess our sins to our gracious God:

C: Lord, we come before You in prayer today, asking for forgiveness. We have not loved as we ought to love, we have not given as we ought to give, and we have fallen short of the mark of being Your obedient sons and daughters. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, the child born in Bethlehem, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

WE RECEIVE FORGIVENESS

P: Our almighty God, in his mercy, sent his Son into our world, born a baby in Bethlehem, destined to die on the cross for us, and for his sake has forgiven us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I declare to you the forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen!

SONG OF PRAISE "Green Book" 39 (verses 1 and 4) Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive its King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing,

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, And wonders of his love,

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray: Gracious Lord, something in us knows that doing all the religious rituals would not justify ourselves to you.....

C: Only your gracious love can justify us; only your will and desire to save us from ourselves can actually free us to be your people. We gratefully celebrate your coming among us, to wear our skin and walk in our shoes, and finally to go to the cross, so that the world would clearly see, how great is your love,

P: through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen!

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Old Testament Lesson: Micah 5:2-5a

God's shepherd will be the people's peace

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace. When the Assyrian comes into our land and treads in our palaces, then we will raise against him seven shepherds and eight princes of men;

New Testament Lesson: Hebrews 10:5-10

Jesus is the sacrifice pleasing to God

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.'" When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "Behold, I have come to do your will." He does away with the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

CHORAL ANTHEM

I Hear the Prophet Callin'

By Pepper Choplin

Gospel Lesson: Luke 1:39-45

Elizabeth sings praises to God for Mary's child

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON SONG "Green Book" 41

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dream-less sleep The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, And, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king, And peace to all the earth!

How silently, how silently, The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming; But, in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

SERMON

"Loving All"

CONFESSING OUR FAITH

**We believe in God, the Father of our Lord Jesus,
Almighty Creator of heaven and earth,
The all powerful and all loving God.**

**We believe in Jesus the Christ,
The child of Bethlehem,
God of God from all eternity,
Born in the flesh at Christmastime,
Born to be our Savior,
Born to suffer and die for our sins,
Born to be raised to conquer death,
And give us hope of eternal life.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
The presence of God among us now,
The power of Christ within us,
Which makes us holy, renews our hearts,
And strengthens us in faith.**

**Binding together all God's people
In bonds of faith and hope and love,
As we together keep the vigil
And reflect upon the mystery
Of God's birth on earth
This holy season.**

OFFERINGS ARE GATHERED

The offerings gathered are a sign of our whole lives offered to God in humble gratitude for his greatest of all offerings, his Son born in human flesh and offered for our salvation.

OFFERING SONG "Green Book 47 vs. 1 and 7 only Let All Together Praise Our God

Let all together praise our God Before his glorious throne;
Today he opens heaven again To give us his own Son,
To give us his own Son.

Your grace in lowliness revealed, Lord Jesus, we adore,
A praise to God the Father yield And Spirit evermore;
We praise you evermore.

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

After each petition the response is:

P: Lord in your mercy

C: Hear our prayer.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION SONGS

"Red Book" 119

Just as I am

Just as I am, without one plea,
But that thy blood was shed for me,
And that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

CLOSING BLESSING SONG (sung to tune of "O Little Town")

**C: Now may the good Lord bless and keep,
His love in us increase;
Lift up his face with shining grace
And grant eternal peace.
To Father, Son and Spirit,
Eternal one in three,
Be thanks and praise through all our days,
And to eternity!**

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

POST-SERVICE MUSIC