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Rev. Amy E. Northridge, Associate Pastor
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Ms. Donna Gross, Custodian

December 24, 2023

10:30 AM

Fourth Sunday of Advent: In the Stable

When Jesus Comes: He Will Bring Love that is Power

Thank you for worshiping with us today. If you are a guest, we invite you to take a moment to complete a visitor's card located in the back of the pew in front of you and place it in the offering plate when it is passed. We also invite you to sign your name in our guest book located in the back entrance of the sanctuary.

We welcome infants and children and all their wiggles & voices in our worship! For your comfort, we also have a children's corner in the back narthex where your child can relax and play and you can still participate in the worship experience. We have children's books and activity bags for them to enjoy! Additionally, after the children's message during the 10:30 AM service, children from 3 years old—6th grade are invited to participate in Sunday school in our classroom downstairs. They can choose to attend Sunday school or return to their seats to sit with their parents. Please see a member of the welcoming team for assistance!

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS
JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**POEM
PRELUDE**

There They Stand
arr. Labenske
Child in the Manger

CALL TO WORSHIP²

L: Alleluia the Christ child comes, and we await his birth.

C: Let us throw off our distractions, and allow the chaos to settle.

L: Let us watch for the signs, and listen to the messengers.

C: Let us stand on tiptoe, and shout aloud and sing.

ALL: Something new is emerging. Something new is being birthed.

CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY³

L: The coming of our Lord is near,

C: And we wait in joyful expectation,

L: Draw close, Lord Jesus Christ,

C: Renew your peace within this wear world.

L: The coming of our Lord is near,

C: And we wait with hope filled hearts,

L: Draw close, God's beloved son,

C: Teach us the wonder of your all-embracing love.

L: We are a people who seek to be brought together by the love of Christ. Our faith teaches us that God gives us unconditional love and forgiveness.

Acknowledging God's free gift of grace, and the powerful action God's grace calls us to we light the Candle of Love.

Lighting of the Candle of Love

L: Lord Jesus Christ, we await your coming,

C: With this light, We wait embracing your love,

L: Knowing your light will shine in the darkness.

C: Lord we wait, and in the waiting may we reach out to share your love with our neighbors.

***OPENING HYMN NO. 117 NCH** (black hymnal see p. 5)

Lift Up Your Heads Ye Mighty Gates

***TIME OF CONFESSION**

CALL TO CONFESSION⁴

PRAYER OF CONFESSION⁵

**C: we journey with you, to Bethlehem's stable and a new-born King.
Ears attuned to the song of angels. Eyes alert for Bethlehem's star.
Forgive us if on our journey we are distracted by the tempting offers
of this world. Keep our hearts aflame to use the power of your love,
held in the promise of a Savior. Amen**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ACT OF PRAISE NO. 196 UM HYMNAL (see p. 6)

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

**ALL SING: Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people
free; from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear
desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.**

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King, born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal spirit, rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE MESSAGE

Luke 1:39-56

HYMN (see p. 7)

Canticle of the Turning

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

ALL: 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

A TIME FOR SHARING

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY & DISCIPLESHIP

OFFERTORY

See, Amid the Winter Snow

arr. Lopez

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE 370 NCH (see p. 8, v. 4) *What Gift Can We Bring?*

ALL SING: This gift we now bring, this present, this token, these words can convey it, the joy of this day! When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing, this song we now offer in honor and praise!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 129 NCH (black hymnal see p. 9)

Good Christian Friends Rejoice

*BENEDICTION⁶

POSTLUDE *Mary Had a Baby/Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child*

arr. Berry

References

¹Poem: There They Stand is written by © 2010 Lisa Ann Moss Degrenia and used with permission.

²The Call to Worship is written by Christine Sine (2012), and posted

on GodSpace. <http://godspace.wordpress.com/2012/12/07/prayers-for-the-journey-advent-prayers-for-the-week/>

³The Candle Lighting Liturgy is adapted from prayers written by Christine Sine (2012), and posted on GodSpace. <http://godspace.wordpress.com/2012/12/07/prayers-for-the-journey-advent-prayers-for-the-week/> and Advent-candle litanies written by Rev. Jolene Cadenbach, Pastor of Arcadia United Church of Christ in Arcadia, CA. and accessed on <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/11/lighting-advent-candles.html> on 11/13/23

⁴The invitation to confessions is adapted from weekly Advent reflections by Mark Pierson. <http://adventinart.org/> and accessed on 11/13/23

⁵The Prayer of Confession is adapted from writings John Birch, and posted on Faith and Worship. www.faithandworship.com and accessed 11/13/23

⁶The Benediction is adapted from and Advent Blessing written by Roddy Hamilton, and posted on Mucky Paws. <http://www.nkchurch.org.uk/index.php/mucky-paws> and accessed for use on 11/13/23

Volunteers

Thank you to Lee & Patsy Brown for donating our beautiful Christmas Tree and the Christmas wreaths!

Thank you to the Advent Team for planning today's worship service. The Advent Team members are Jennifer Damon, Denny Daugherty, Deb Herlocker, David Firestone, Lana Fritz, Cindy Hogentogler, Barb Stebbins, & Pastor Amy.

Thank you to Danika Dallam for creating the beautiful bulletin cover this week!

Thank you to Carol Bair, Brenda & Jim Beyer, Elaine Bevivino, Karen & Mike Gibbs, and Faye Heal for setting up our nativity scene.

And thank you to all serving in worship this morning:

Welcome Team Members: John & Connie Wolfe, Nancy & Jeff Sleeper

Tech Team: Deb & Jack Herlocker, Paul Ramsey

Liturgist: Andrea Adams

Poem Reader: Deb Herlocker

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Georg Weissel, 1641

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♩ = 150

Piano



1. Lift up your heads, ye might-y gates; be - hold, the
2. Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a
3. Re - deem-er, come, with us a - bid; our hearts to
4. Thy Ho - ly Spir - it lead us on un - til our

6



King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is draw - ing
tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for heaven's em -
thee we o - pen wide; let us thy in - ner pres - ence
glo - rious goal is won; e - ter - nal praise, e - ter - nal

12



near; the Sav - ior of the world is here!
ply, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
feel; thy grace and love in us re - veal.
fame be of - fered, Sav - ior, to thy name!

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Wesley, 1744

Prichard, 1830

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♩ = 80

Piano

1. Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple
2. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a

8

free; from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our
King, born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious

15

rest in thee. Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of
king - dom bring. By thine own e - ter - nal spir - it rule in

22

all the earth thou art; dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion,
all our hearts a - lone; by thine all suf - fi - cient mer - it,

29

joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Canticle of the Turning

Rory Cooney

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

1. My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the God of my heart is
2. Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in
3. From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a stone will be left on
4. Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re - mem - ber who holds us

5

great, and my spir-it sings of the won-drous things that you bring to the ones who
me, and your mer-cy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to
stone. Let the king be - ware for your jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty-rant from his
fast: God's mer-cy must de - liv - er us from the con-quer-or's crush-ing

9

wait, You fixed your sight on your ser-vant's plight, and my weak-ness you did not
be. Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you
throne. The hun-gry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can nev - er
grasp. This sav - ing word that our fore-bears heard is the prom - ise which holds us

13

spurn, so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to
yearn, you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to
earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev 'ry mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to
bound, till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turn-ing the world a -

17

turn? My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus-tice burn. Wipe a -
turn.
turn.
round.

22

- way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a-bout to turn.

What Gift Can We Bring (Mueller)

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Piano 

1. What gift can we bring what pres - ent
2. Give thanks for the past, for those who
3. Give thanks for to - mor - row, full of
4. This gift we now bring, this pres - ent

4 

what to - ken? What words can con - vey it, the joy of
had vi - sion, who plant - ed and wa - tered so dreams could
sur - pris - es, for know - ing what - ev - er to - mor - row
this to - ken, these words can con - vey it, the joy of

8 

this day? When grate - ful we come, re - mem - bering
come true. Give thanks for the now, for stud - y,
may bring, The Word is our prom - ise al - ways,
this day! When grate - ful we come, re - mem - bering,

12 

re - joic - ing, what song can we of - fer in hon - or
for wor - ship, for mis - sion that bids us turn prayer in -
for - ev - er; we rest in God's keep - ing and live in
re - joic - ing, this song we now of - fer in hon - or

16 

and praise?
- to deed.
God's love.
and praise.

Good Christian Friends Rejoice

Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

1. Good Christian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
2. Good Christian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
3. Good Christian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

6

now give heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to-day;
now you know of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now you need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

10

Ox and ass be - fore him bow, a - sleep with - in the man - ger now.
God has o - pened heav - en's door, and you are blessed for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

14

Christ is born to - day, Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save, Christ was born to save!

NOTES