

Early Service

Teaching | Responding | Communing

Wonder | Luke 1:39-47, 56-69

39 In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, 40 and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41 And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, 42 and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! 43 And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. 45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.” 46 And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior...

And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home. 57 Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. 58 And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. 59 And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, 60 but his mother answered, “No; he shall be called John.” 61 And they said to her, “None of your relatives is called by this name.” 62 And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. 63 And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” And they all wondered. 64 And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. 65 And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea, 66 and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, “What then will this child be?” For the hand of the Lord was with him. 67 And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying, 68 “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people 69 and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David...

Personal Reflection Question

If wonder is “the quality of exciting, amazed admiration”, how brightly is the Candle of Wonder shining inside of you this Christmas? What in Luke 1 has struck you as the most “wonderful” part of the coming of Jesus?

Family Business

This Week

Sun. Dec. 18 – Field of Dreams Uganda Hope Marketplace.

Sun. Dec 18 – During Sunday School Hour – Dylan Wright, Director of Campus Outreach Columbus, will speak in Room 014.

Sun. Dec 18 – 6:00 pm F&C hosts its 90th Annual Candlelight Musical Service. Free concert.

Upcoming

Sat. Dec. 24 – 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Family Service.

Sat. Dec. 24 – 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Communion Service.

Sun. Dec. 25 – 10:00 am Christmas Day Service

Mon. Dec. 26 – Fri. Dec 30th – The church office is closed for the Christmas holidays.

Mon. Dec 26 – Angie Bennett Memorial Service at 2:00 pm.

Fri. Jan. 6 – Memorial service for Tom Byrne will take place in the sanctuary at 10:00 am. Doors will be open at 9:30 for visitation.

Leadership

Rev. Don Everts | Senior Pastor

Steve Young | Director of Operations

Jamie Swope | Associate Minister of Discipleship

Tyler Heckman | Director of Worship and Music

Dr. Jim Davidson | Advisory Director of Music/Principal Organist

Wendy Everts | Minister of Outreach

Rev. Cooper McWhirter | Minister of Pastoral Care

Brian Correll | Media Coordinator

Robin Jaques | Communications Coordinator

Lisa Smith | Children’s Ministry Coordinator

Spencer Busch | Lead Custodian

FIRST & CALVARY

a house of prayer for every generation

THE UNSTOPPABLE CHRISTMAS TRAIN!

DECEMBER 18, 2022

Liturgical Service

Prelude | Dr. Jim Davidson

Lighting of the Candles & Call to Worship The Swope Family

On this the 4th week of Advent, we light the Wonder Candle.

For when God is on the move, glory and the miraculous are afoot. And we can't help but pause and ponder the wonder of it all.

*Hymn 145

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Words: Marcus Aurelius C. Prudentius, 4th C.; tr. John M. Neale, 1854, and Henry W. Baker, 1859, alt.
Music: Plainsong, c. 13th C.; arr. based on C. Winfred Douglas, 1916

Confession of Sin

Almighty God,

you who shaped out of nothing all that is,
forgive us for returning empty-handed.

You who called forth light,

forgive our preference for the dark!

You who sent John to be a voice crying,

forgive our unwillingness to say anything at all!

Create in us clean hearts, O God,

and renew a right spirit within us.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn 817

Hear Our Prayer

Words: Based on Psalm 143:1; Music: George Whelpton

Declaration of Forgiveness

Surely God's salvation is at hand for those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;

righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,

and righteousness will look down from the sky.

The Lord will give what is good,

and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness will go before him

and will make a path for his steps.

In Christ, God's salvation is at hand,

and righteousness has come.

Thanks be to God!

—based on Psalm 85:9-13

Hymn 805

Glory Be to the Father

Words: Gloria Patri; Music: Henry Greatorex

Scripture

Luke 1:39-47, 56-69

Text on Early Service Panel

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Anthem | Chancel Choir

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Words: Trad. German, trans. Dr. Theodore Baker (1851-1934)

Music: Michael Praetorius, (1571-1621)

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming

from tender stem hath sprung!

Of Jesse's lineage coming

as men of old have sung.

It came a flow'ret bright,

amid the cold of winter,

when half-spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it,

the Rose I have in mind,

with Mary we behold it,

the Virgin Mother kind,

To shew God's love aright

she bore to men a Savior,

when half-spent was the night

Time for Children | Rev. Don Everts

As the children come: *Jesus Loves Me*

As the children depart: *Oh, How I Love Jesus*

Sermon | Rev. Don Everts

The Unstoppable Christmas Train! | Wonder

Confession of Faith | The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People 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.

Invitation to Offering

Offertory | Bell Choir; Jim Davidson, conductor

Pat-a-Pan

Arr. Gregory Pysh

*Hymn 809

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

Words: Thomas Ken; Music: Genevan Psalter

*Offering Prayer

*Hymn 162

The First Noel, the Angels Did Say v 1, 2, 4

Words: Traditional English carol

Music: W. Sandy's Christmas Carols, 1833; arr. John Stainer, 1871

*Benediction & Benediction Response

162 The First Noel, the Angels Did Say v 6

Postlude

Notes