

The United Methodist Church at Absecon

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Come and Worship the Lord

December 11, 2022

Today's Lay Reader: Lynn Caterson

Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: Come! Whoever you are, wherever you are, come!

People: **We come ready to experience the joy of Advent.**

Leader: Joy is different than happiness. In times of loss, sadness, fear and uncertainty, it is hard to be happy. Even when we are unhappy, we can find joy.

People: **Happiness is temporary. Joy is permanent. Happiness comes from the world. Joy comes from God.**

Prelude

"Munich"

George Brandon

Hymn

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

1. Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates;
2. Fling wide the por - tals of your heart;
3. Re - deem - er, come, with us a - bide;
4. Thy Ho - ly Spir - it lead us on

be - hold, the King of glo - ry waits;
make it a tem - ple, set a - part
our hearts to thee we o - pen wide;
un - til our glo - rious goal is won;

the King of kings is draw - ing near;
from earth - ly use for heaven's em - ploy,
let us thy in - ner pres - ence feel;
e - ter - nal praise, e - ter - nal fame

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

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, we clap our hands and shout with joy to you, our God. You are multiplying and increasing our church. You bring us great joy. Our joy comes from our trust in you. We trust that you and your plan are bigger and better than ours. We trust in your Word which

teaches us that even if there is sadness in the evening, joy comes in the morning. Help us now to share that joy with the whole world. Amen.

Lighting the Advent Candle

Peter and Judy Pine

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn

There's a Song in the Air

1. There's a song in the air! There's a star in the sky!
2. There's a tu - mult of joy o'er the won - der - ful birth,
3. In the light of that star lie the a - ges im - pearled;
4. We re - joice in the light, and we ech - o the song

There's a moth - er's deep prayer and a ba - by's low cry!
for the vir - gin's sweet boy is the Lord of the earth.
and that song from a - far has swept o - ver the world.
that comes down through the night from the heav - en - ly throng.

And the star rains its fire while the beau - ti - ful sing,
Ay! the star rains its fire while the beau - ti - ful sing,
Ev - ery hearth is a - flame, and the beau - ti - ful sing
Ay! we shout to the love - ly e - van - gel they bring,

for the man - ger of Beth - le - hem cra - dles a King!
for the man - ger of Beth - le - hem cra - dles a King!
in the homes of the na - tions that Je - sus is King!
and we greet in his cra - dle our Sav - ior and King!

Young Disciples Chatting with the Rev

Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 9:1-7

But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
You have multiplied exultation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
For the yoke of their burden
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders,
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Great will be his authority,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God

People: **Thanks be to God**

Message

When Light Shines

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts to God

Offertory

Prepare the Way

arr. James Mansfield

*Offertory Hymn

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
His name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us,
His name is called Emmanuel.

A Service of Word and Table

Please see the Communion Liturgy on [page 7](#) of this document.

Hymn 218

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

1. It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old,
2. Still through the clo-ven skies they come with peace-ful wings un-furled,
3. And ye, be-neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,
4. For lo! the days are has-tening on, by proph-et seen of old,

from an - gels bend-ing near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
and still their heaven-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world;
who toil a-long the climb-ing way with pain-ful steps and slow,
when with the ev - er - cir-ling years shall come the time fore - told

“Peace on the earth, good will to men,* from heaven’s all-gracious King.”
 a - bove its sad and low - ly plains, they bend on hov-ering wing,
 look now! for glad and gold - en hours come swift-ly on the wing.
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an-cient splen-dors fling,

The world in sol- emn still-ness lay, to hear the an - gels sing.
 and ev - er o'er its Ba-bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
 O rest be-side the wea - ry road, and hear the an - gels sing!
 and the whole world send back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Benediction

Postlude

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

David Cherwein

Choir Cantata: December 18.

Christmas Eve Worship Schedule:

- 5 PM Contemporary Candlelight Service in Great Hall
- 7 PM Traditional Candlelight Service in Sanctuary (*with Acolytes Circle of Light*)
- 11 PM Traditional Candlelight Service in Sanctuary

Christmas Day and New Year’s Day: 10 AM in Sanctuary

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A Service of Word and Table

Invitation

Pastor: Christ our Lord invites to His table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Confession and Pardon

People: Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved You with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done Your will, we have broken Your law, we have rebelled against Your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are all forgiven!

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! All: Thanks be to God!

The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The pastor gives thanks appropriate to the occasion, remembering God's mighty acts of salvation, and concludes: And so, with Your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

The people sing their response:

Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord; God of
power and might. Heav - en and earth are
full of your glo - - - - -
- ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho -
san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high -
est! Blest is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho -
san - na in the high - est!

WORDS: From *The United Methodist Hymnal* (Isa. 6:3; Matt. 21:9)

MUSIC: Mark A. Miller

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The pastor continues the Thanksgiving. The institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled. The pastor concludes: And so, in remembrance of these Your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and

living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

The people sing their response:

Memorial Acclamation

Christ has died, Christ is ris - en,
Christ will come a - gain. Ho -
san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho -
san - na in the high - est!

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The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and then praises the Trinity, concluding: All honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

ALL: Amen!

Breaking the Bread

Giving the Cup