

December 11, 2022

Christmas Cantata

Greeting

Rev. David Petty

Prelude

Stephanie Shorden

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Bobbie Stribling & Steve Wenzl

Reader 1: Today is the third Sunday of Advent.

Reader 2: As we await the coming of Christ, we rejoice in all things for the Lord is near!

Reader 1: Today, we light the third candle in the advent wreath: the candle of Joy.

Reader 2: Some of us feel the joy of the season with each passing day. Some of us struggle. We light this candle to light our way toward joy.

**Congregation: This is the day that the Lord has made, we shall rejoice and be glad in it.**

\*Gathering Song

*The First Noel*

vs. 1 UMH #245

WORDS: Trad. English carol (Luke 2:8-14; Mt. 2:1-12)

*1. The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.*

*Refrain*

*Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.*

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

vs. 1, 2 UMH #216

WORDS: Sts. 1-2, 15th cent. German; trans. by Theodore Baker 1894;

st. 3 from The Hymnal, 1940 (Is. 35:1-2)

St. 3 © 1940, 1942, renewed 1971 The Church Pension Fund

*1. Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming, as those of old have sung. It came a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.*

*2. Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind; with Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind. To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior, when half spent was the night.*

Scripture Reading

Lu Petersen

Mystery Box

Invitation to Prayer

Rev. David Petty

Anyone wishing to come forward to the Communion Railing to pray or light a prayer candle may do so.

**Pastoral Prayer, Silent Prayer & The Lord's Prayer**

Pastor Donnie Sturgill

*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 trespasses, as we forgive those to trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power and the Glory forever.*

**Invitation to Offering**

Lu Petersen

**Offertory**

Sanctuary Choir

**Prayer of Thanks & Dedication**

Rev. David Petty

**\*Doxology**

*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

UMH #94

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

**Christmas Cantata**

*Gloria* by John Trotta

Sanctuary Choir

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

Pastor Donnie Sturgill

We believe in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking a humble form, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God:

We believe in the triune God, Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit.

We believe that WE are the people of God.

We are St. Paul's United Methodist Church.

We celebrate the unconditional love of God, We follow the way and teachings of Christ, through the power and guidance of God's Holy Spirit. We believe we are called to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to Love our neighbor as ourselves.

**\*Sending Hymn**

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

vs. 1, 2 UMH #234

WORDS: John F. Wade, ca. 1743; trans. by Frederick Oakeley 1841, and others

1. O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem. Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

*Refrain*

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

2. True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal, lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb; Son of the Father, begotten, not created;

*Refrain*

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Announcements

Benediction

Rev. David Petty

Postlude

Stephanie Shorden