

ETERNAL HOPE IN THE MIDST OF WAR

THE DISRUPTION OF CHRISTMAS

LUKE 1:26-38



TRINITY
Presbyterian Church

ORDER OF WORSHIP | Sunday, November 29, 2020

Listening devices are available for the hearing impaired.

Please speak with a greeter or visit the sound booth upstairs for a listening device.

CELEBRATING THE SEASON - 2020

The earth holds its breath, waiting. Advent is a season of longing, a yearly representation in our church calendar of the eons spanning from the moment Eve took the first bite of the fruit until that starry night when Heaven touched earth and Christ incarnated, becoming God-man. Fully human. Fully God. Advent culminates in the arrival of Jesus--Messiah in the flesh, born as a human child to the last people on earth who anyone would have chosen to parent a king!

SONG OF GATHERING & PREPARATION

The people of God always sang as they ascended the hill in Jerusalem up to the temple to worship (see Psalms 120-134). We, as well, prepare our hearts, minds, and bodies for worship by singing about the God we serve.

Prepare Him Room

EXPLANATION OF ADVENT THEME

CALL TO WORSHIP/ADVENT CANDLE | Isaiah 42:5-9 (ESV)

We read God's Word, the Bible, together. It reveals to us who God is and what He expects of us.

Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it: "I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols. Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them."

PRAYER OF ADORATION & CONFESSION

We pray together praising God for who He really is (Adoration) and admitting our inability to live up to what He expects of us (Confession).

ASSURANCE OF PARDON | Romans 6:20-23 (ESV)

We read God's Word together and are reminded that mercy and grace are freely given to all who have faith in Jesus Christ.

For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

We respond to the good news of God's mercy and grace for us in Jesus by giving generously to the work of His church and the kingdom of God.

What Child Is This

PRAISE & CELEBRATION

Our response to God's free grace is celebratory worship. We express our praise to God for who He is and what He has done for us.

Christ Be Magnified

Graves Into Gardens

CONFESSION OF FAITH

As an expression of our faith in Jesus Christ in solidarity with his people, we declare the substance of what we believe.

From the New City Catechism:

Q. 50. What does Christ's resurrection mean for us?

A. Christ triumphed over sin and death by being physically resurrected, so that all who trust in him are raised to new life in this world and to everlasting life in the world to come. Just as we will one day be resurrected, so this world will one day be restored. But those who do not trust in Christ will be raised to everlasting death.

KIDS' WORSHIP & COMMUNITY KIDS DISMISSAL

Infants - Fifth Grade are dismissed. Please see your child's check-in name tag for class assignment.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & INTERCESSION

We express in prayer our gratitude to God for what He has done and ask Him to continue to act for our good and the good of others in our community and world.

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD | Tim Rice, Lead Pastor & Director of Church Planting

A small portion of God's Word is explained to us and applied to our lives and circumstances.

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING | Mercy Fund Offering

SONG OF RESPONSE

We respond to the good news of God's mercy and grace by singing again of His goodness and greatness.

Who You Say I Am

BENEDICTION

Because the hand of God's wrath was raised against Jesus, we now receive the hand of God's blessing as we are sent out to live our lives to the glory of God.

May the LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
the LORD turn His face toward you and give you His peace,
both now and forevermore. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE & SERMON OUTLINE

Proclamation of God's Word

Text: Luke 1:26-38 (ESV)

Title: Eternal Hope In The Midst of War: The Disruption of Christmas

Teacher: Tim Rice

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Intro: We have almost no sensibility of the claims of kingship ...

GOOD NEWS

What exactly is Gabriel announcing to Mary?

BAD NEWS

How is God's rule disruptive?

THE HOPEFUL TURN

What has God come to accomplish?

YOU CAN PRAY WITH US ...

1. Worship the LORD, God Almighty, our Maker and Only King. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for His work to save us, breaking into this world to call us back to reality.
2. How have you lived independently and willfully ignorant of God's rule? Confess your pride and autonomy to Jesus asking Him to forgive you for defying Him and to change your rebellious heart to be truly loyal.
3. Give thanks for Jesus coming in such a way as to enter into the very nature of our disgrace to save sinners like us! Thank Him that in the place of shame He would glorify His Name.
4. Who do you know that is defiant? Pray for them, asking the Lord to show Himself merciful and powerful to them, and that He would convey to them the hope of new birth – a new heart toward their Maker and King.
5. Ask the Holy Spirit to bear in you His fruit of love and faithfulness. Pray for boldness and loyalty to Him that, because of His love, you would be willing to risk earthly shame to be known as His loyal subject.

