

Sunday, December 27, 2020

First Sunday of Christmastide

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Instrumental Hymn: "O Come, All Ye Faithful" vs. 1 & 2

O come, all ye faith-ful, joy-ful and tri-um-phant;
O come ye, O come ye to Beth-le-hem!
Come and be-hold Him, born the king of an-gels!
O come, let us a-dore Him! O come, let us a-dore Him!
O come, let us a-dore Him— Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of an-gels, sing in ex-ul-ta-tion;
O sing all ye cit-i-zens of heav'n a-bove
Glo-ry to God, all glo-ry in the high-est!
O come, let us a-dore Him! O come, let us a-dore Him!
O come, let us a-dore Him— Christ, the Lord!

Call to Worship:

The dark night has been illumined by the Light of God, our Savior, Christ the Lord! The Child of Bethlehem bids us to turn aside from fear and walk with the confidence and courage that comes from God's love. Let us rejoice in all that we have heard and seen, and labor to bring God's kingdom near to all people. Amen!

Prayer of Invocation:

We give you thanks and praise, O God, for the fulfillment of your promise—the birth of your Son. Join us as we worship you, and re-ignite the light of your love in our hearts, that we may share the good News of Jesus's birth, and carry on the ministry of love and reconciliation that bears his name. Amen!

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Epistle Reading:

Galatians 4:4-7

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Gospel Reading:

Luke 2:22-40

When the time had come for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother, Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Israel.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Here ends this reading of the Gospel.

Instrumental Hymn: "What Child Is This?"

What child is this who lay to rest,
On Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
Whom an-gels greet with an-thems sweet,
While shep-herds watch are keep-ing?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing,
Haste, haste, to bring him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mar-y

Why lies he in such mean es-tate,
Where ox and ass are feed-ing?
Good Chris-tian fear, for sin-ners here
The si-lent Word is plead-ing.
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing,
Haste, haste, to bring him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mar-y

So bring him in-cense, gold and myrrh,
Come, peas-ant, king to own Him.
The King of kings sal-va-tion brings;
Let lov-ing hearts en-throne Him.
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing,
Haste, haste, to bring him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mar-y

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass 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 and ever. Amen!

Sermon: "Promise Fulfilled, Ministry Begun"

Instrumental Hymn: "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" vs 1 & 4

It came up-on the mid-night clear, That glo-rious song of old,
From an-gels bend-ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good-will to men, from heav'n's all-gra-cious King!"
The world in sol-emn still-ness lay to hear the an-gels sing.

For lo, the days are has-t'ning on, by pro-phets seen of old,
When with the ev-er-cir-cling years shall come the time fore-told,
When peace shall o-ver all the earth its an-cient spleen-dors fling,
And the whole world send back the song which now the an-gels sing.

Dedication of our Tithes and Offerings

God of Hope and Love, whose Son is the greatest gift ever given, we thank you for this joyous Christmas season. Inspired by your gift, we bring our lives and our gifts to you. Bless our tithes and offerings, and us in your service, that together we may share the good news of Bethlehem's Babe, and carry on the ministry that was begun in him. Amen!

Benediction

Postludes

Birthday Blessings
Larry Schroeder Dec 27
Leonard Blank Dec 30
Brenda Wege Dec 31

Please take your bulletin home with you this morning.