

Sunday, December 1, 2024

Communion Sunday

Guest Preachers: Shaun McIntosh & Pat MacDonald

Music Director: Victoria Warwick

Reader: Murray Lockhart

Tech Team: Glenn Erwin, Gabriela and Rick Dell, Bruce Wilcox and Marina Commisso

WELCOME, CALL TO THE GATHERED & ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE LAND

HYMN MEDLEY: VU #5 "All Earth is Waiting" (v. 1,2)

1. All earth is waiting to see the Promised One; and open furrows await the seed of God.
All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;
it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.
2. Thus says the prophet to those of Israel, "A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel."
One whose name is "God with us," our Saviour shall be,
through whom hope will blossom once more within our hearts.

VU#64 "O Little Town of Bethlehem "

1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
2. For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.
3. How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessed gift of heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.
4. O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

OPENING PRAYER: read by Murray Lockhart

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE:

One: On this first Sunday of Advent, we come with hope as a community of faith.

All: We watch, we wait, we wonder.

One: We come in hope for God's promise to bring light to this world.

All: We wait in hope for the coming of Jesus, the Christ child.

One: As we light the first candle in our wreath, we take a moment to breathe in the Spirit of hope.

SUNG RESPONSE: "Light a Candle"

Light a candle for hope in the darkness. Minds at rest, we know you are near;
Advent watching and waiting for Jesus, God with us, redeeming the years.
Emmanuel, hope is here; Hope is here!

THEME CONVERSATION:

SCRIPTURE:

COMMUNION HYMN: VU #457 "As We Gather at Your Table"

1. As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence, let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's victory known.
2. Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.
3. Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy blind us nor will pride our peace destroy
as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS VU #932(sung)

Holy, holy, holy are you, God of power and might, heaven and earth are filled with your glory, Hosanna in the Highest! Blessed is the one who comes in your name, Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION (2x MV#207)

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

SHARING THE BREAD AND WINE

SERMON:

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: "A Festive Gloria" sung by St Paul's choir

SUNG RESPONSE: VU# 55 (V. 4)

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him – give my heart.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/LORD'S PRAYER read by Murray Lockhart

CLOSING HYMN: VU#4 "God of All Places"

1. God of all places; present, unseen; voice in our silence, song in our midst,
we are your people, knowing, unsure: come, Lord Jesus, come!
2. God of all dreaming, near and yet far; vision unheard of, wake us to rest.
We are your presence sent forth, afraid: come, Lord Jesus, come!
3. God of all people, dust and the clay; breath of a new wind, fire in our hearts,
light born of heaven, peace on the earth: come, Lord Jesus, come!

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE