



Reach One More For Jesus!

Second Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2020

PRELUDE "There's a Song in the Air" by Holland/Harrington Thelma Downey

WELCOME Marilyn Casey

MEDITATIVE THOUGHT

Today, Lord, help us to become spiritually ready for the coming of Christ.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Marilyn Casey

L: The world is dark and cold.

P: We look for signs of Your coming.

L: The world is hungry for righteousness.

P: We look for signs of Your coming.

L: The world yearns for Your love.

P: We look for signs of Your coming. Amen.

OPENING HYMN "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Hymnal Page #196

1. Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

2. Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King, born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

OPENING PRAYER

Marilyn Casey

Lord of Darkness, and of Light, come to us this day in the midst of our growing darkness bringing the light of hope to our lives. Keep our hearts and minds alert to Your presence. Give peace to our stressed spirits. In this season of Advent, prepare us to greet the One Who will lift our burdens and change our lives forever. Amen.

Advent Candle Lighting

Kay Hobert & Dick Carris

Reader: Our lists are long, even in this strange mess where we live these days. And we want to do it right, we want to be safe, but we want to be able to enjoy the season. We've got work to do to put right what has gone wrong, to heal what is broken, to mend the relationships, and to prepare for the company that will come.

The prophet Isaiah reminded us that there is work to be done. "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." When God comes in, then healing is to be found, but we need to make the way; we need to open the door into our lives.

So, we light these candles as a sign of our faith, that the God we worship is not far from us, and that we can clear the way for that God to come and dwell with us. We light these candles in faith that company is coming.

Light the Hope & Peace Candles

Reader: O Come, O Come Emmanuel.

READINGS

Marilyn Casey

Luke 1: 26-38, 46-48 NIV

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

²⁶In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.” ²⁹Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father, David, ³³and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.” ³⁴“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?” ³⁵The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶Even Elizabeth, your relative, is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷For no word from God will ever fail.”

³⁸“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

⁴⁶And Mary said: “My soul glorifies the Lord ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed...

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE “WHY GOD CHOSE MARY?”

Pastor Tom

- 1. God Uses People Who Desire To Do His Will.
- 2. God Uses People Who Decide To Pay The Cost.
- 3. God Uses People Who Dare To Trust His Promise.

COMMUNION HYMN “Let Us Break Bread Together”

Hymnal #618

1 Let us break bread together on our knees, (on our knees)
 let us break bread together on our knees. (on our knees)
 When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
 O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor Tom

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Pastor Tom

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PASTOR AND PEOPLE

Pastor Tom

GIVING BACK TO GOD (TITHES AND GIFTS)

Pastor Tom

DOXOLOGY “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Hymnal #95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Marilyn Casey

Giver of the most precious Gift of all, we return to You this day our thanks represented in these gifts and in the lives of all these dear people. Bless these gifts and all these people that they may be lights of Your love in our dark world. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN "It Came upon the Midnight Clear" vs. 1 & 4

Hymnal Page #218

1. It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all-gracious King." The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

4. For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old, when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

BENEDICTION

Pastor Tom

POSTLUDE

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" by Mason Neale/Alan Smith

Thelma Downey