



grace

presbyterian

church

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Sunday, December 13, 2020

Prelude

Margaret Bradly, Organ

Announcements

***Call to Worship**

Jeremiah 33:14-16

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.””

***Hymn of Praise**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

#208

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

God of God, Light of Light;
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin’s womb:
Very God, begotten, not created;
O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav’n above;
Glory to God in the highest;
O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning:
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv’n;
Word of the Father, late in flesh appearing;
O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

***Prayer of Adoration 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Call to Confession

Psalm 103:8-10

“The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.”

Prayer of Confession

Merciful Lord, we confess that with us there is an abundance of sin, but in you there is the fullness of righteousness and abundance of mercy. We are spiritually poor, but you are rich, and in Jesus Christ came to be merciful to the poor. Strengthen our faith and trust in you. We are empty vessels that need to be filled; fill us. We are weak in faith; strengthen us. We are cold in love; warm us, and make our hearts fervent for you, that our love may go out to one another and to our neighbors. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Psalm 103:11-12

“For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.”

***Hymn of Response**

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

#201

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.

For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.

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.

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:5-25; 57-66

In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.

Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared."

And Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time." And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute. And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, "Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people."

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, but his mother answered, "No; he shall be called John." And they said to her, "None of your relatives is called by this name." And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John."

And they all wondered. And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea, and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, “What then will this child be?” For the hand of the Lord was with him.

Pastoral Prayer

Mr. Andy Mitchell

***Scripture Reading**

Malachi 3:1-4

Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like the fullers’ soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Sermon

“Prepare Him Room”

Rev. David Stewart

I. Repent

II. Rejoice

III. Respond

Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;
 Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
 Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
 With th’angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
 Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;”

Christ, by highest heav’n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!
 Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin’s womb.
 Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th’incarnate Deity.
 Pleas’d as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
 Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;

Hail the heav’nborn Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
 Light and life to all he brings, ris’n with healing in his wings.
 Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,
 Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
 Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;

***Benediction**

Ephesians 6:23-24

“Peace be to the brothers, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
 Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible.”

***Three-fold Amen**

***Indicates congregation will stand, if able**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thursday Bible Study Groups

2:00 p.m. – home of Ann Eyster; study of John; Bob Rhodes, leader

6:30 p.m. – home of Andy/Carole Mitchell; study of Exodus; Andy Mitchell, leader

7:00 p.m. – home of David/Wendy Stewart; study of Galatians; David Stewart, leader

Thursday, December 24, 2020 – 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

We will take an offering during the service to support the work of the PCA's Retirement, Benefits and Insurance Agency for Ministerial Relief, helping pastors and their wives who are in financial need.

Wi-Fi access – *GracePCA* | *Grace0777*

Please maintain distance between families as best as possible. Please fellowship outside unless there is inclement weather.

There is an offering box in the back of the sanctuary for tithes and offerings.

12/6/20 Offering	\$5,514.00
YTD Offering	\$145,217.86
YTD Budget	\$154,166.25
Benevolence Offering	\$181.00
Building Fund	\$15.00

GRACE SUPPORTED MISSIONARIES/AGENCIES

Agape Flights – Venice, FL
Carter, Michael & Cathalain – MTW – Nagoya, Japan
Child Evangelism Fellowship – Charlotte County, FL
Grady, Miriam & son Evan – MTW – Czech Republic
Jean-Rejouis, Davidson & Katie – MTW – France
Jennings, Collin & Zury – RUF Global
Knaebel, Christ & Rebecca – Church Planting – Sarasota, FL
Lennox, Patrick & Regina – MTW – Native Americans
Martin, Jeremy & Angel – Serge – London, England
Matlack, Ken & Tammie – MTW – Global Initiative to Mobilizing Intercessory Prayer
Pregnancy Solutions – Port Charlotte, FL
Stevens, Carla – MTW – Christian Educational Consultant
Tanner, Lucas – RUF – Florida Gulf Coast University
Young Life – Port Charlotte, FL

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