



grace

presbyterian

church

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday, December 20, 2020

Prelude

Margaret Bradly, Organ

Announcements

*Call to Worship

Isaiah 60:1-2

“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.”

*Hymn of Praise

“Good Christian Men, Rejoice”

#207

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
Earth and heav'n before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door, and man is blessed evermore,
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

*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

Isaiah 53:6

“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned – every one- to his own way; and the LORD laid on him the iniquity of us all.”

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, we acknowledge and confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed; we have not loved you with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength; we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. Deepen within us our sorrow for the wrong we have done, and the good we have left undone. Lord, you are full of compassion and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy; there is always forgiveness with you! Restore to us the joy of your salvation; bind up that which is broken, give light to our minds, strength to our wills, and rest to our souls. Speak to each of us, and let your word abide with us until it has wrought in us your holy will. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Isaiah 53:12

“Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.”

***Hymn of Response**

“God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen”

#211

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,
remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day.
to save us all from Satan’s pow’r when we were gone astray;
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy

From God our heav’nly Father, a blessed angel came;
and unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same;
how that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name,
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy

“Fear not, then” said the angel, “let nothing you afright.
this day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,
to free all those who trust in him from Satan’s pow’r and might.”
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind,
and left their flocks a feeding, in tempest, storm, and wind:
and went to Bethlehem straight-way, the Son of God to find.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Scripture Reading

Luke 2: 1-21

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold I bring you good news of a great joy that will be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you; you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying.

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned glorifying, and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Joseph Yerger

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way. ‘The voice of one crying in the wilderness; Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’”

John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son, with you I am well pleased.”

The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.

Sermon

“The Good News”

Rev. David Stewart

I. Promise

II. Preparation

III. New Birth

***Hymn of Response**

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

#214

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.

Gloria in excelsis Deo

Gloria in excelsis Deo

Shepherds why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heav’nly song?

Gloria in excelsis Deo

Gloria in excelsis Deo

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Gloria in excelsis Deo

Gloria in excelsis Deo

***Benediction**

Numbers 6:24-26

“The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.”

***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.

12/13/20 Offering	\$2,362.50
YTD Offering	\$147,580.36
YTD Budget	\$157,312.50
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, Chris & 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

10548 SW County Road 769

Lake Suzy, FL 34269

(941) 743-7971

www.gracelakesuzy.org

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