



grace

presbyterian

church

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday, December 19, 2021

Prelude

Margaret Bradly, Organ

***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:**

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

#218

Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o’er all the earth;
ye who sang creation’s story, now proclaim Messiah’s birth.

Refrain:

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds in the fields abiding, watching o’er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing, yonder shines the infant Light. **Refrain**

Sages leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen his natal star: **Refrain**

Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear. **Refrain**

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son;
evermore your voices raising to th’eternal Three in One. **Refrain**

***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 Preparation:**“What Child Is This?”****#213**

What child is this, who laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nail, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary.

So, bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.

10 “At that time the LORD said to me, ‘Cut for yourself two tablets of stone like the first and come up to me on the mountain and make an ark of wood.’² And I will write on the tablets the words that were on the first tablets that you broke, and you shall put them in the ark.’³ So I made an ark of acacia wood, and cut two tablets of stone like the first, and went up the mountain with the two tablets in my hand.⁴ And he wrote on the tablets, in the same writing as before, the Ten Commandments that the LORD had spoken to you on the mountain out of the midst of the fire on the day of the assembly. And the LORD gave them to me.⁵ Then I turned and came down from the mountain and put the tablets in the ark that I had made. And there they are as the LORD commanded me.”⁶ (The people of Israel journeyed from Beeroth Bene-jaakan to Moserah. There Aaron died, and there he was buried. And his son Eleazar ministered as priest in his place.⁷ From there they journeyed to Gudgodah, and from Gudgodah to Jotbathah, a land with brooks of water.⁸ At that time the LORD set apart the tribe of Levi to carry the ark of the covenant of the LORD to stand before the LORD to minister to him and to bless in his name, to this day.⁹ Therefore Levi has no portion or inheritance with his brothers. The LORD is his inheritance, as the LORD your God said to him.)¹⁰ “I myself stayed on the mountain, as at the first time, forty days and forty nights, and the LORD listened to me that time also. The LORD was unwilling to destroy you.¹¹ And the LORD said to me, ‘Arise, go on your journey at the head of the people, so that they may go in and possess the land, which I swore to their fathers to give them.’¹² “And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul,¹³ and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD, which I am commanding you today for your good?¹⁴ Behold, to the LORD your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it.¹⁵ Yet the LORD set his heart in love on your fathers and chose their offspring after them, you above all peoples, as you are this day.¹⁶ Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart and be no longer stubborn.¹⁷ For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe.¹⁸ He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing.¹⁹ Love the sojourner, therefore, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.²⁰ You shall fear the LORD your God. You shall serve him and hold fast to him, and by his name you shall swear.²¹ He is your praise. He is your God, who has done for you these great and terrifying things that your eyes have seen.²² Your fathers went down to Egypt seventy persons, and now the LORD your God has made you as numerous as the stars of heaven.

5 Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers, **2** older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity. **3** Honor widows who are truly widows. **4** But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show godliness to their own household and to make some return to their parents, for this is pleasing in the sight of God. **5** She who is truly a widow, left all alone, has set her hope on God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day, **6** but she who is self-indulgent is dead even while she lives. **7** Command these things as well, so that they may be without reproach. **8** But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. **9** Let a widow be enrolled if she is not less than sixty years of age, having been the wife of one husband, **10** and having a reputation for good works: if she has brought up children, has shown hospitality, has washed the feet of the saints, has cared for the afflicted, and has devoted herself to every good work. **11** But refuse to enroll younger widows, for when their passions draw them away from Christ, they desire to marry **12** and so incur condemnation for having abandoned their former faith. **13** Besides that, they learn to be idlers, going about from house to house, and not only idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying what they should not. **14** So I would have younger widows marry, bear children, manage their households, and give the adversary no occasion for slander. **15** For some have already strayed after Satan. **16** If any believing woman has relatives who are widows, let her care for them. Let the church not be burdened, so that it may care for those who are truly widows.

Sermon**A Family Affair
Being the Church****Rev. David Stewart****I. Proper Relationships****II. A Ministry of Mercy****III. Qualified to Serve**

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.

Refrain:

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? **Refrain**

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

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.

Small Group Studies!

Thursday afternoons at 2:00 p.m. at Ann Eyster's home.

Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m. at the church.

Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. at the Mitchell's home.

Please join us on Friday, December 24th at 4:00 p.m. for our annual Christmas Eve service. We will have a service of Lessons and Carols as we hear the great redemptive story of Emmanuel, God with us. We will also be taking a special offering in support of Ministerial Relief which cares for widows and pastors in need. You may use the envelope provided and place it in the offering box.

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

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

12/12//21 Offering	\$ 4,533.00
YTD Offering	\$217,279.40
YTD Budget	\$155,750.00
Building Fund	\$ 20.00

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

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

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