



December 20, 2020  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

GATHERING

Heather Hinton

GREETING

Darren Cushman Wood

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cory Unthank

PRELUDE

*Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

arr. P. Manz

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Sing and rejoice, O daughter Zion!

**People: For lo, I will come and dwell in your midst, says the Lord.**

Leader: Many nations shall join themselves to the Lord in that day,

**People: and shall be my people; and I will dwell in your midst.**

OPENING HYMN #224

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

***Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say: News, news! Jesus Christ is born today!  
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today, Christ is born today!***

***Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye hear of endless bliss: News, news! Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He hath opened heaven's door, and ye are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this!***

***Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye need not fear the grave: News, news! 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!***

ADVENT CANDLES

The Lekberg Family

Pastor: We light these candles as a sign of the coming of Christ, the Light of the World.

My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior  
for the Mighty One has done great things.

Leader: May the love of God come and live among us. May the grace of God come and dwell in us.  
Come, Lord Jesus, come!

**[Refrain] O come, O come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel.  
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

2 Samuel 7:1-11

King David moved into his new palace, and the Lord let his kingdom be at peace. Then one day, as David was talking with Nathan the prophet, David said, "Look around! I live in a palace made of cedar, but the sacred chest has to stay in a tent." Nathan replied, "The Lord is with you, so do what you want!" That night, the Lord told Nathan to go to David and give him this message:

"David, you are my servant, so listen to what I say. Why should you build a temple for me? I didn't live in a temple when I brought my people out of Egypt, and I don't live in one now. A tent has always been my home wherever I have gone with them. I chose leaders and told them to be like shepherds for my people Israel. But did I ever say anything to even one of them about building a cedar temple for me?"

"David, this is what I, the Lord All-Powerful, say to you. I brought you in from the fields where you took care of sheep, and I made you the leader of my people. Wherever you went, I helped you and destroyed your enemies right in front of your eyes. I have made you one of the most famous people in the world. I have given my people Israel a land of their own where they can live in peace, and they won't have to tremble with fear any more. Evil nations won't bother them, as they did when I let judges rule my people. And I have kept your enemies from attacking you. Now I promise that you and your descendants will be kings."

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

SOLO

*Magnificat*

from *The Nativity According to St. Luke*

R. Thompson

Chloe Boelter, soprano

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.  
For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden:  
for behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.  
For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name.  
And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation.  
He hath shew'd strength with his arm,  
he hath scatter'd the proud in the imagination of their hearts.  
He hath put down the mighty from their seats and exalted them of low degree.  
He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away.  
He hath holpen his servant Israel in remembrance of his mercy;  
as he spake to our fathers, and to Abraham, and to his seed forever. Amen.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

The Magnificat  
Luke 1:46b-55

Cory Unthank

Leader: My soul magnifies the Lord,

**People: my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
who has looked with favor on me, a lowly servant.**

Leader: From this day all generations shall call me blessed:

**People: the Mighty One has done great things for me  
and holy is the name of the Lord,  
whose mercy is on those who fear God  
from generation to generation.**

Leader: The arm of the Lord is strong,  
and has scattered the proud in their conceit.

**People: God has cast down the mighty from their thrones  
and lifted up the lowly.**

Leader: God has filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.

**People: God has come to the aid of Israel, the chosen servant,  
remembering the promise of mercy,  
the promise made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and his children forever.**

HYMN OF PRAYER #219

*What Child Is This*

***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?***

***Refrain: 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 Christians, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. [Refrain]***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Cory Unthank

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

DOXOLOGY #94

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

SOLO

*Song of Mary*

F. Lopez

Chloe Boelter, soprano

My soul exalts the Lord, my God, and my spirit rejoices in praise to God my Savior.  
For he has chosen me, the handmaid of the Lord. Age to age, generations will call me blessed, for the favor the Mighty One has shown to his servant. For he has honored me, the handmaid of the Lord. In

his goodness, his kind compassion, he sends the Promised One the vow to pay. In remembrance of his great mercy, the Holy One has done great things for me. O magnify his holy name. My soul magnifies the Lord, my God, and my heart rejoices in praise to God my Savior. For he has chosen me, the handmaid of the Lord. Amen.

SERMON

*The Faithfulness*

Darren Cushman Wood

HYMN OF DEDICATION #240

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

***Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born 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!"***

***Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"***

***Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th' incarnate Deity,  
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. [Refrain]***

***Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. [Refrain]***

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Leader: Now to God who is able to strengthen you  
according to the revelation of the mystery of Jesus Christ that was kept secret for long ages  
**People: to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be glory forever and ever! Amen.**

POSTLUDE

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

arr. J. Vivian

*The flowers on the altar today are given for the glory of God and in memory of  
Paul and Martha Benedict by Katherine Benedict.*

This week's worship leaders:

Darren Cushman Wood, *Senior Pastor*  
Mark Gilgallon, *Music Director*  
Cory Unthank, *Minister of Youth & Young Adults*  
John Hague & James Horton, *Audio Visual*  
Heather Hinton, *Organist*  
Chloe Boelter, *Soloist*

Christmas Eve Services

- 12 p.m. Children and Youth Service  
uploaded to North Church Indy YouTube  
Channel
- 10:30 p.m. Live-Stream Christmas Eve Service