

First Presbyterian Church of Rolla
Worship Service on Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 19, 2021, 9:45 am

Pre-Service Music *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* - Mark Hayes

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: *Reflection on an Ancient Plainsong* - Michael Ryan

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Isaiah spoke to a people called chosen,

to a tribe called Israel, with a light of hope.

Gabriel came to a town called Nazareth,

to a girl called Mary, with a light of joy.

Mary went to a place called Bethlehem,

to a stable called a nursery, with a light of love.

As we light the fourth Advent candle,
we rejoice with Mary, for Love has flesh.

**Come now, O Child of Mary.
Come now, O Prince of Love.**

Advent Prayer

We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time that marks or days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, open our eyes to see your presence in the lowly ones of this earth. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may sing of your advent among us in the Word made flesh. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

Amen

Introit: *Light Four Candles to Watch for Messiah G2G85 v. 2*

Call to Worship

Keep watch!
For the One who brings peace is coming.

We wait in anticipation for Christ.

We wait for God's revealing of joy.

Remain alert!

**Love is coming to dwell among us.
Hope draws near.**

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Opening Hymn #105 *People, Look East vs. 1,2,4* (please stand)

Call to Confession

In our waiting and preparation,
we come to rest, again, at the foot of the cross.

**Even in this season of anticipation,
we see the fullness of God's promised redemption
in the waters of baptism.**

As those who are fully known and redeemed,

we confess our sin before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

**O God, giver of all good gifts, we come before you as children
in need of your wisdom and grace.
Our fears and our hopes are braided together in the rhythm of daily life.
Our visions of the future depend on our own hands and ability.
Our expectations remain reasonable and within our control.
Break into this tangle of fear and hope, bringing peace to our souls.
Break into our vision of the future, returning us to your hands.
Break into our expectations, awakening us with curiosity and wonder;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Declaration of Forgiveness

Christ's coming is certain.

God's promise is true.

Trust in the transformational power of God's
Forgiveness and receive the gift of God's love.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God.

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Passing the Peace of Christ

Gloria #581: *Glory Be to the Father*

Anthem: *Lost in the Night* Kyle Haugen

Time for sharing of joys and concerns, and the prayer list.

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Worship leader will lead the prayers. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people
and places that yearn for God's presence.

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and
those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray:

**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**

Hymn: #100 *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout* *Canticle of the Turning* vs. 1,2,3

Prayer for Illumination

Let us pray:

**Prepare the way of the Lord. All flesh shall see the salvation
of God. Alleluia. Help us to hear God's word anew this day. Amen.**

Old Testament Lesson: Micah 5:2-5a

Gospel Lesson: Luke 1: 39– 56

The Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Witnesses of God's Grace

Jonathan Kimball

Affirmation of Faith for the Season of Advent (please stand)

We believe in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross.

Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen. (Philippians 2:5-11)

Sending Hymn#97 *Watchman, Tell Us of the Night v. 1, 2* (remain standing)

Benediction: (remain standing)

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace
in believing, so that we may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
through Christ Jesus for whom we wait. Amen.

Go in peace. Live in love. **Serve the Lord**

Postlude: *A Joyous Song of Praise* David Lasky (please be seated)

Scriptures are read from the NRSV translation. Music presented by Lorie Francis, and the Chancel Choir. Worship led by Liz Stottlemire and sermon provided by Jonathan Kimball.

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