

First Presbyterian Church of Rolla
Worship Service for the Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 18, 2022

Pre-Service Music: *Still, Still, Still* - Ruth Elaine Schram

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: *As With Gladness Men of Old* - Matt Hyzer

Lighting of the Advent Candle – Advent 4

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 our fourth Advent candle,

we rejoice with Mary, for Love has flesh.

Come now, O Child of Mary.

Come now, O Prince of Love.

GTG 103: *Come Now, O Prince of “LOVE”* vs. 1

Call to Worship

We stand on the cusp: **the promise is almost fulfilled.**

We wait with bated breath: **the child is almost here.**

We trust the well-loved story: **God is truly with us.**

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free
us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for
you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Opening Hymn #409: *God is Here!* (please stand)

Call to Confession

God comes to us just as we are, with all our triumphs, our worries, our gratitude, and
our failures.

We deepen our relationship with God now by drawing close and confessing our sins.

Prayer of Confession

Shepherd of our souls, we anticipate your coming but do not feel ready. We have done too much, and not done enough. We have focused too much on ourselves, and not enough on others. Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we might be saved. Amen

Declaration of Pardon

Emmanuel did not come into this world to condemn, but to save.

God does not come to imprison us, but to set us free.

Through this abundant love,

we are forgiven. Thanks be to God

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

Passing the Peace of Christ

Gloria #113: “Gloria” refrain from *Angels We Have Heard on High*

Cantata: “A Midnight Clear” arr. John Leavitt

Reading 1: A Promised Ruler - Jeremiah 23: 5 – 6

King Jesus Hath a Garden

Reading 2: A Child is Born - Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Puer Natus in Bethlehem (A Child is Born in Bethlehem)

Reading 3: Jesus’ Birth Foretold - Luke 1: 26 – 33

Blessed Be That Maid Mary”

Reading 4: Jesus’ Birth – Luke 2:1 – 7

All My Heart This Night Rejoices

Reading 5: The Angels Proclaim the Good News – Luke 2:8 – 14

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

Reading 6: The Shepherds Travel to Bethlehem Luke 2:15 – 16

O Come Little Children

Reading 7: The Shepherds Share the Good News Luke 2:17 – 20

In Dulci Jubilo

Reading 8: The Word Became Flesh John 1:14 – 18

Carol for the Newborn King

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

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

Worship leader will lead the prayers. God, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

God of our longing you know our deepest need. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children, as we pray the prayer your Son 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

Dedication of Tithes, Offerings

(please stand)

Doxology: *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* sung to *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

Praise God from whom all ble-ssings flow,
Praise Him all creatures he-re below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts.
Praise Father, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Our gifts we bring to thee, O Lord, Amen.

Prayer of Consecration:

Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. On this day we dedicate our tithes and offerings for the work of your church in this place. We give thanks and rejoice for the many gifts you have given to us. Make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen.

Sending Hymn #105:

People Look East

(stand)

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.

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

Postlude: *Go, Tell It On the Mountain* - Patti Brennan (please be seated)

Scriptures are read from the NRSV translation. Music presented by Lorie Francis, and Jeff Sandquist. Worship led by Javier Valentín-Sívico.

Portions of the service reprinted by permission of Presbyterian Press from Call to Worship®. Copyright 2022, and Sundays and Seasons 2023, Augsburg Fortress Press, Copyright 2022.