

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

December 22, 2024

Pre-Service Music: *I Saw Three Ships* Lloyd Larson

Welcome and Announcements:

Prelude: *Manger Lullaby* Mark Hayes

Lighting of the Advent Candle:

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.

Advent Candle Song #103: *Come Now, O Prince of Peace*

**Come now, O Prince of Love, make us on body.
Come Lord Jesus, reconcile all people.**

Responsive Call to Worship and Prayer of the Day

Give ear to our cries, O Shepherd of Israel;

let your face shine, and save us.

Though we've been fed the bread of tears,

let your face shine, and save us.

Though our enemies rise up, though we feel consumed and surrounded,

let your face shine, and save us.

Awaken your might; lead us gently in your light.

Restore us, O God, so that we might be saved. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Loving Shepherd, as we draw closer to the feast of Christmas, remind us again how to heed your will. Help us to hear when you call. Help us to follow where you lead. Help us to trust your rod and staff. Hold us closely in your care as we anticipate the coming gift of Christ. Amen.

Opening Hymn #121: *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (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.

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 #113: *Gloria Refrain – Angels We Have Heard on High*
(stand)

Anthem: *Sing Angels Kings and Folk* Ben Allaway

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

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Worship leader will lead the prayers.

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

God our uniter, increase communication and cooperation in our relationships with those of other traditions and religions. Root your church in the radical message of your incarnation, and enable us to pursue your justice in the world.

Lord in your mercy, **Receive our prayer.**

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ 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 #98: *To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary* (seated)

Prayer for Illumination:

Prepare our hearts, O God, to accept you Word. Silence in us any voices but your own, so that we may hear your Word and also do it; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scriptures for the Day:

Old Testament Lesson: Micah 5:2 – 5a

Epistle Lesson: Hebrews 10: 5 – 10

Gospel Lesson: Luke 1:39 - 55

Heaven and earth will pass away, but the word of the Lord is forever.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: *A Big Risk* Jonathan Kimball

Affirmation of Faith *Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.19* (stand)

Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus. His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God. He was the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel, the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of the new humanity. He gave history its meaning and direction and called the church to be his servant for the reconciliation of the world.

Dedication of Tithes and Offerings: (please be seated)

Offertory Hymn #694: *Great God of Every Blessing* vs. 1, 3

Prayer of Dedication:

All things in heaven and earth belong to God, who is coming in glory to reveal a new creation. Let us offer our lives to the Lord. In this waiting season, fill us with hopeful expectation that we may see the signs of your kingdom all around us and rejoice in your coming salvation and glory. Amen.

Hymn #100: *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout* (stand)

Charge and Benediction: (remain standing)

May God give you strength and courage
to keep watching for the One who is coming.

May God give us to one another
so we remember we are not alone.

May God give us to the world
to prepare the way for the coming kingdom.
In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen!

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

Postlude:

Bring a Torch

Faye Lopez

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