

ADVENT 4 SUNDAY

December 20, 2020

Organ Prelude: Pastoral Symphony from Messiah

G. F. Handel

Welcome, Announcements & Worship Theme

CALL TO WORSHIP:

“Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.” (1 John 4:7)

We come to worship, O God, seeking your energy and flow, your presence and movement, a transcendence that can fill us with purpose and peace to be.

We come to worship to learn how our loving can transform the world around us and how our openness to love can transform us.

We come to worship to confront all that blocks us up inside, all that we are afraid to face and name and work through because it may involve too much change.

We come to worship because we know we are made for more and we know we are precious beyond what we often see because we listen to the wrong voices.

Come to us and resurrect us with your love once again, O God, as we worship you this hour!

Lighting of the fourth Advent Candle – the candle of Love

(Hymn 119, v.4) Love is a flame that burns in our heart.

Jesus has come and will never depart.

When God is a child there's joy in our song.

**The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.**

Hymn: “Of eternal love begotten”

No. 163

1. Of eternal love begotten
uncreated One in Three,
Christ, the Alpha and Omega,
Christ, the Source, the End will be

of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.

2. This, the one whom
heaven-taught singers
sang of old with one accord,
whom the scriptures of the prophets
promised in their faithful word;
shines among us, long expected;
let creation praise its Lord,
evermore and evermore.

3. Oh that birth forever blessed
when the virgin, full of grace,
by the Spirit's power conceiving,
bore the Saviour of our race,
and the child, the world's Redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore.

4. All the heights of heaven adore him;
angels endless praises sing,
all earth bow to Christ our Sovereign,
and our joyful tribute bring;
let no tongue on earth be silent,
every voice in concert ring,
evermore and evermore.

5. God Redeemer, God Creator,
God the Spirit, now to thee
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
and unwearied praises be,
honour, glory and dominion
and eternal victory,
evermore and evermore.

Prayer of Approach, Confession & 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil;

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Peace of Christ be with you all;

And also with you.

Children's Theme for Church School

Special Music: The Carol of the Field Mice

soloist Joanne Nasmith with pianist Bruce Nasmith

Michael Head

Scripture Readings: Luke 1:26-38, 1 John 4. 7-9,11-21

Luke 1:26-38

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' 29 But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30 The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. 31 And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will

name him Jesus. 32He 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. 33He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’ 34Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’ 35The 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. 36And 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. 37For nothing will be impossible with God.’ 38Then 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. Amen.

1 John 4. 7-9,11-21

7 Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. 11Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. 12No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

13 By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. 14And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. 15God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. 16So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. 17Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. 18There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. 19We love because he first loved us. 20Those who say, ‘I love God’, and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. 21The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also. Amen.

We are listening, O God;
Speak to us!

Sermon: CHANGING THE WORLD THROUGH LOVE

Dr. Harris

Special Music: Gabriel's Message

setting by Ted Nasmith

soloists Joanne Nasmith, Radostina Borisova, Elias Theocharidis and Jim Nasmith with pianist Bruce Nasmith

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Pastoral Concern

Hymn: "Lord, you were rich"

No. 134

1. Lord, you were rich
beyond all splendour,
yet, for love's sake, became so poor;
leaving your throne in glad surrender,
sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.
Lord, you were rich beyond all splendour,
yet, for love's sake, became so poor.

2. You are our God beyond all praising,
yet, for love's sake, became a man;
stooping so low, but sinners raising
heavenwards by your eternal plan.

You are our God beyond all praising,
yet, for love's sake, became a man.

3. Lord, you are love beyond all telling;
Saviour and King, we worship you.
Emmanuel, within us dwelling,
make us and keep us pure and true.
Lord, you are love beyond all telling;
Saviour and King, we worship you.

Benediction

Threefold Amen

Organ Postlude: Il est ne, le divin enfant

traditional French carol

Ministers

Ministers-in Association

Minister Emeritus

Clerk of Session

Administrator & Manager of Community Engagement

Music Director

Parish Nurse Assistant

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