

**Salem United Church of Christ
Worship Order**

December 20, 2020 • The Fourth Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE *The First Noel/Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

Chappell Kingsland, Keyboard

WELCOME

Rev. Russ Kirby

RINGING OF THE BELL

Chappell Kingsland (Organ Chimes)

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Jackson/Side Family

OPENING HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

HFG #193

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;**

Refrain:

**O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;**

(Refrain)

**Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,
O Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;**

(Refrain)

UNISON PRAYER

Krissy Berry

O long-expected Jesus, we come in faith, anticipating your arrival. In a world filled with trouble, open our eyes to see you in everyone we meet; open our minds to engage them with love; and open us up to your joy, today and always. Amen.

**It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, goodwill to men,
From heaven’s all-gracious King”:
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.**

**And ye, beneath life’s crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow,
Look now! For glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing:
O rest beside the weary load,
And hear the angels sing.**

**For lo, the days are hastening on,
By prophet seen of old,
When, with the ever-circling years,
Shall come the time foretold,
When the new heaven and earth shall own
The Prince of Peace their King,
And the whole world send back the song
Which now the angels sing.**

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Peter 1:3-9

Krissy Berry

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

⁶ In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had

to suffer various trials, ⁷ so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. NRSV

THE MESSAGE “Restoration Jobs: Restoring Joy” Rev. Kirby

MUSICAL OFFERING *Mary, Did You Know?* (Lowry/Greene)
Preeti Saldanha, soprano
Chappell Kingsland, piano

DOXOLOGY NCH #780

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God for all that Love has done,
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Kirby

SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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.

PRAYER RESPONSE *O Come, All Ye Faithful (Refrain)* HFG #193

**O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE CAROL

Joy to the World!

HFG #171

**Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the world! the Savior reigns:
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.**

BENEDICTION

Rev. Kirby

Leader: May the Peace of God go with you.
People: And also with you. Amen.

SENDING FORTH *Go Tell It on the Mountain (Refrain)* NCH 154

**Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hill and everywhere.
Go tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born!**

Postlude

Mary, Did You Know? (Reprise)

Chappell Kingsland, Keyboard