

**First Presbyterian Church
Chippewa Falls, WI
Worship Service
December 20, 2020 – 10: 15 AM
4th Week of Advent**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CANDLE LIGHTING

One: On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we light a candle for love, and to remind us that God is the light on our paths.

All: Light up our hearts with your ways.

One: God was with Mary. God was with Joseph. When we face uncertainty, God be with us.

All: Light up our hearts with your ways.

One: God sends Christ to open our hearts to an immense love. God, as we wait,

All: Light up our hearts with your ways.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever; I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

All: I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

One: You said, “I will establish your descendants forever, and build your throne for all generations.”

All: Let the heavens praise your wonders, O Lord, your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones.

One: Let us worship God!

HYMN: “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence “ vs. 1 #5

INVITATION TO CONFESSION:

Your steadfast love endures forever, O God; your name is heralded throughout the land. Songs of rejoicing are heard in your sanctuary as hymns of praise proceed from our mouths. You fill your people with the gift of your Holy Spirit; you send forth a Savior with the promise of new life. You are our God, and great are your wonderful deeds. We worship you now in great adoration.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

All: O God of compassion, have mercy upon us. You send forth your Spirit yet we ignore your counsel. Christ dwells among us, yet we fail to obey him. We sing of peace on earth, yet hostility continues. Angels herald good tidings, yet we commit evil deeds. Forgive our deliberate and indirect misuse of your graciousness, and make us worthy to receive Christ in our lives.

One: God, who is just and gracious, has sent Jesus Christ into the world to redeem us from sin. As we turn to God with contrite hearts, Christ intercedes on our behalf. So with assurance I can say to you, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

HYMN: “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” vs. 1 and 2 #8

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

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 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

SPECIAL MUSIC: When Mary Came to Bethlehem”
Written by Jerry Way
Performed by our very own choir.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 89: 1-4, 19-26

I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations. I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. You said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to my servant David: ‘I will establish your descendants forever, and build your throne for all generations.’”*Selah* Then you spoke in a vision to your faithful one, and said: “I have set the crown on one who is mighty, I have exalted one chosen from the people. I have found my servant David; with my holy oil I have anointed him; my hand shall always remain with him; my arm also shall strengthen him. The enemy shall not outwit him, the wicked shall not humble him. I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him. My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with him; and in my name his horn shall be exalted. I will set his hand on the sea and his right hand on the rivers. He shall cry to me, ‘You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation!’

GOSPEL: Luke 1: 26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He 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. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The 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. And 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. For nothing will be impossible with God.” Then 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.

SERMON: **“How God Got His Son to Earth”** **Rev. Rich Estrem-Fuller**

HYMN: **“Angels From the Realms of Glory”** **vs. 1 and 2 #22**

CLOSING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION:

POSTLUDE: