



Zion Goshert's United Church of Christ

Worship ~ 4th Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 19, 2021

Pastor: Bruce Farrell

Ministers: All the Faithful Members

1588 Mount Zion Road, Lebanon, PA 17046 717-865-3286 www.ziongosherts.org

*Please stand if you are able. Congregation, please speak or sing the words in **bold**.

PRELUDE

Tara Zimmerman

WELCOME (Ringing of the Bell)

*CALL TO WORSHIP: Waiting in Love

Pastor: Come, it is Advent, a season of waiting, of preparation. What are you waiting for?

People^R: May Your unfailing LOVE come to me, Lord – Your salvation, according to Your promise.

People^L: “My unfailing LOVE for you will not be shaken, nor My covenant of peace be removed,” says the Lord, Who has compassion on you.

Pastor: *God first LOVED us.*

People^R: This is how God showed His LOVE among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him.

People^L: We LOVE because God first LOVED us.

People^R: You, Lord, are forgiving and good, abounding in LOVE to all who call to You.

Pastor: *We respond with LOVE.*

People^L: A new command I give you: LOVE one another. As I have LOVED you, so you must LOVE one another.

People^R: LOVE is patient, LOVE is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. LOVE does not delight in evil but rejoices in the truth.

People^L: Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly LOVED, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

Pastor: *We are saved because of LOVE.*

People^R: The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying, “I have LOVED you with an everlasting LOVE; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.”

People^L: Put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing LOVE and full redemption.

People^R: He has remembered His LOVE and faithfulness to Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Pastor: *LOVE comes with Jesus’ birth.*

People^L: The Father LOVES the Son and has placed everything in His hands. “The reason my Father LOVES me is that I lay down My life,” Jesus said.

People^R: For God so LOVED the world that He gave His one and only Son.

Pastor: *What are you waiting for?*

*HYMN

Joy to the World

Voices of Zion leading

¹ 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.

² Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns. Let all their songs employ while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

³ No more let sin 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.

⁴ 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.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

David and Christine Williams

Advent is a time of waiting. We wait in hope.

[The 1st candle is lit.]

We wait in peace.

[The 2nd candle is lit.]

We wait in joy.

[The 3rd candle is lit.]

As we wait, we are filled with love: love for God, love for others, and, yes, love for ourselves. We love because God first loved us. God loved you so much that He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, into this world to save you. Nothing can satisfy our longings except God's love. Today, we light the candle of love. As we wait, let us be people of love. [The 4th candle is lit.]

SONG

Jesus, Name above All Names

[Sing while the 4th candle is lit.]

**¹ Jesus, Name above all names. Beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.
Emmanuel, God is with us. Blessed Redeemer, Living Word.**

**² Praise Him, Lord above all lords. King above all kings; God's only Son.
Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor. Lord of the universe, Light of the world.**

Repeat Verse 1.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: The Gift that Never Lets You Down

CONFESSION

Call to confession

[Malachi 3:1-2]

"I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord You are seeking will come to His temple. The Messenger of the Covenant, Whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty. Who can endure the day of His coming? Who can stand when He appears? For He will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap.

Responsive Confession

Pastor: God, our Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, we confess that we are not ready to meet You.

People: You call us to repent, but we turn away from You.

Pastor: You wait patiently for us, but we fail to watch and wait for You.

People: You offer us a place in Your house, yet we find no room for You in our lives.

Pastor: We study the trends of our times and ignore the signs of Your reign.

People: We trust in things that pass away and forget Your eternal promise.

Pastor: You send your Spirit to release us, yet we remain captivated by sin.

People: You stand among us in Christ Jesus, yet we claim by our actions or words that we do not know You.

Pastor: You are love, but we do not love one another.

All: You invite us into Your eternal realm, yet we fail to welcome others.

Assurance of Pardon

[Ephesians 2:4-8]

The good news of Advent is that God in Jesus Christ has come into the world, led the way through death so we may have life, and is coming again to make all things new. Hear these words of assurance "Because of His great love for us, God, Who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ ... so He might show the incomparable riches of His grace, expressed in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves; it is the gift of God."

SCRIPTURE: Joel 3:17-21; John 4:10-20; Luke 2:15-17

*HYMN

Of the Father's Love Begotten

¹ Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,

He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He.

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

² O that birth forever blessèd, when the virgin full of grace,

by the Spirit's power conceiving, bore the Savior of our race,

and the babe, the world's Redeemer, first revealed His sacred face, evermore and evermore.

³ Let the heights of heaven adore Him; angel hosts His praises sing.

Powers, dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and King.

Let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring, evermore and evermore!

⁴ Christ, to You, with God the Father, and O Spirit, there shall be

hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and the shout of jubilee:

honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory, evermore and evermore!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

SERMON: Waiting ~ Waiting to be Satisfied

GOD'S WORD ON GIVING

[John 4:14]

Jesus said, "Whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

PRAYERS of the people and pastoral prayer

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father Who is in heaven, hallowed be Your Name.

Your kingdom come; Your 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.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

*HYMN

Crown Him with Many Crown (Christmas)

**¹ Crown Him with many crowns the King who left His throne.
Creator of the universe, born to the world He holds
And with that first drawn breath the Word has become flesh.
Emmanuel has come to us, O crown Him all the earth!**

**² Crowned by the angel choir they tell His royal birth.
Sing glory in the highest height and peace upon the earth.
They break the silent night announcing endless worth.
The King of grace and love is here, O crown Him all the world!**

**³ Crowned by their royal gifts: gold frankincense and myrrh
Wise ones approach this manger throne with honors from afar.
Behold the Son of God and bow down in this place.
The Prince of Peace has come to us, O crown Him with your praise!**

**⁴ Crown Him with many crowns the Lamb upon His throne.
Hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own.
Awake, my soul and sing, God sent His Son for me.
Now hail Him as Your matchless King through all eternity.**

**Awake, my soul and sing, God sent His Son for me.
Now hail Him as Your matchless King through all eternity.**

BENEDICTION

As you wait for Christ to return, live as people of *love* and go with God's blessing.
May hope in Christ's return sustain you, God's peace saturate the world around you,
the joy of the Holy Spirit strengthen you, and the love of the triune God encircle you,
in this moment and in all the moments to come. Amen.

NOTES ON PARISH LIFE and THE POSTLUDE

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Crown Him with Many Crown (Christmas). Chris Tomlin | Colby Taylor | Daniel Carson | DK Kim | Matt Redman

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Call to Worship: Psalm 119:41; Isaiah 54:10; 1 John 4:9, 19; Psalm 86:5; John 13:34; 1 Corinthians 13:4, 6; Colossians 3:12; Jeremiah 31:3; Psalm 130:7; Psalm 98:3; John 3:35, 10:17, 3:16
Responsive confession adapted from: http://pma.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/calltoworship/lectionaryaids/481_pdfs/ctw481_advent_sample.pdf
Assurance of Pardon partially adapted from: <https://www.reformedworship.org/article/september-2008/living-advent>

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