



DECEMBER 10-11, 2022
3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

MEDITATION PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP:

O Creator, promise for the world, hear our prayers during this time of waiting. We hear your call to journey toward the light, and yet we stumble. Our journey toward your promise of Christ's coming is filled with doubt, pain and often despair that there is meaning in the waiting. Our losses, our worries overtake us. Create in us the thread of hope that pulls us forward from promise to the miracle of new life. Be born in us and fill us with hope to share with the world. Amen.

PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

- ❖ *We are all meant to be mothers of God, for God is always needing to be born.*
- Meister Eckhart (Medieval Theologian)
- ❖ *Darkness is everywhere, but God doesn't give in to the darkness, not even when we do. God comes to us in the midst of darkness and offers us light and hope.*
- Charles Tobias (American Songwriter)

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Something stirs deep within us -

All: A longing, a hope,

One: A thirst for joy,

All: A hunger for peace,

One: A yearning for blessing.

All: We know deep within

One: That our hopes and fears

All: Will be met by angel songs and baby sighs.

One: It is Advent -

All: Season of waiting, hoping, yearning.

One: Advent -

All: Come, Lord Jesus, be born in us.

Praise Song: Love Can Break Through (music at end of bulletin)

OUR CONFESSION:

All: Loving God, it is true that we do not see your new vision for life. We get stuck in old patterns, bad habits, limited hopes. We do not look deep enough to see you in the midst of difficulty, to find you inside our anxious longing. We do not recognize you in our longing for someone or something to take away the emptiness. We place our hopes on some present, some kind word, some new experience and miss the deepest love which is offered to us by the child in the manger.

Persistent God, open us to seeing you in the paradoxes of life. Give us reason to smile, knowing you are working in the ups and downs of our busy days. Set loose a new hope in us and in all. Amen.

CONFESSION RESPONSE: Darkness Cannot Drive Out Darkness
(music at end of bulletin)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: Messiah (music at end of bulletin)

THE READING: Jeremiah 29:11

God says, For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

THE 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 for ever, 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.

MESSAGE IN WORD AND SONG:

“Be Born Among Us, the Helpless and Hopeless”

***O Come, All You Unfaithful
How Many Kings
Waiting For You
Star Child***

THE PRAYERS

THE LORD’S PRAYER:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.

THE SENDING OUT:

Leader: Dismiss us, Lord, with confidence.
Ground us in hope.
Strengthen our faith.
Remind us of those things worth dying for,
That we might live in hope always.

All: Amen.

THE SENDING SONG: *I Heard the Bells* (music at end of bulletin)

THE DISMISSAL:

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

OUR *Welcome* IS WIDE OPEN

Skeptic. Cynic. Certain. Believer. Confident. Fearful. Doubter. Seeker. Questioner. Latino. Black. Asian. White. Indigenous. Immigrant. Any combination of ethnic or racial identities. Female. Male. Straight. Gay. Bisexual. Transgender. Questioning. Rich. Poor. Middle-class. Barely making it. Able bodied. Specially abled. Disabled. Young. Old. In-between. Married. Single. Divorced. Awaiting trial. Served time.

On probation. Tired. Worn. Hopeful. Employed. Unemployed. Workaholic. Slacker.

Anxious. Depressed. Confused. Centered. Inked. Pierced. Both. Life long follower

of Jesus. Regular attender. Occasional attender. Curious onlooker. Don't quite fit the box.

Need a prayer right now. **Trinity is a faith community where we believe**

in God's love, grace and mercy—illustrated most clearly through Jesus

Christ. We believe we are all children of God, created in God's image

and equal in God's sight. We believe God loves us just as we are and

way too much to let us stay this way. We are called to live in God's light

and be transformed, not through judgment but through unconditional love.

We believe God's love is all-inclusive and is stronger than the pressure

to be perfect regardless of whatever labels we carry. Saint. Sinner. Democrat.

Republican. Independent. Libertarian. Green. Socialist. Apolitical. Addicted. Recovering.

We don't care what religion or denomination you are. We are all Human. We are all Flawed.

We are all Beloved. —You are welcome here.

COME *as you are.*



Love Can Break Through

1. Lit - tle child can you hear me?
2. Lit - tle child in the sta - ble,
3. Lit - tle child, gift of mer - cy,

I be - lieve you are the one
stars and an - gels for hail your birth.
light and grace for all to see,

who can heal, who can change us,
Hear the voice of the a - ges
in a friend or a strang - er,

who gives life to ev - 'ry - one.
pray - ing for your peace on earth.
an - y - one who is in need.

I'm wait - ing on love. I'm hop - in' for love. I'm
count - ing on love to break through. In this mir - a - cle life, in our joy
and strife, I know that your love can break through.

Your love can break through. through. Love can break
through. Love can break through. Oh, _____ Oh, _____ Sing 4X, then v. 3

Darkness Cannot Drive Out Darkness

Dark - ness can - not drive out_ dark - ness; on - ly light can clear the_ way.
 Ha - tred can - not drive out_ ha - tred; on - ly love keeps hate at_ bay.
 On - ly good - ness breaks through e_____ - vil. Life a - lone drives death a__ - way.

Messiah

Some - one's shout - ing from the des - ert_.
 Some - one's shout - ing from the ci - ty
 Some - one's shout - ing I am brok - en
 Some - one's shout - ing from the sea
 I am young_ I am cold
 Some - one's shout - ing make me whole
 Some - one's shout - ing from the moun - tain
 Some - one's shout - ing from the coun - try
 Some - one's shout - ing come and change me
 Some - one's shout - ing from the val - ley Mes - si____ - ah,
 I am lone - ly I am old_
 Some - one's shout - ing save my soul.
 come and be our King. Mes - si_____ - ah,
 come and be our King. 3

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day



1. I heard the bells on Christ - mas day their
 2. I thought how, as the day had come, the
 3. And in de - spair I bowed my head: "There
 4. Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: "God the
 5. Till, ring - ing, sing - ing on its way, the
 old fa - mil - iar car - ols play, and wild and sweet the
 bel - fries of all Chris - ten - dom had rolled a - long th'un -
 is no peace on earth," I said, "For hate is strong and
 is not dead, nor doth He sleep. The wrong shall fail, the
 world re - volved from night to day - a voice, a chime, a
 words re - repeat of peace on earth, good will to men.
 bro - ken song of peace on earth, good will to men.
 mocks the song of peace on earth, good will to men."
 right pre - vail, with peace on earth, good will to men."
 chant sub - lime, of peace on earth, good will to men.

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