**SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE**

**December 22nd, 2024**

**10:00 A.M.**

**PRELUDE:**

**Reader:** This morning we light the fourth candle in our Advent wreath, the candle of Love. 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. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you. Jeremiah 29:11 & Jeremiah 31-3b

Let us Pray: Loving God, your mercy and compassion endure forever. Open our hearts, that we may receive your love; and following the example of your Son, spread that love throughout this world. Through Jesus Christ, who comes to us in love. Amen.

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN***: People, Look East*

*(Not in hymnal)*

*1.People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table. people, look east and sing today: Love, the guest, is on the way.*

*2. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim, shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as the moon and stars together. People, look east and sing today: Love, the star, is on the way.*

*3. Angels, announce with shouts of mirth he who brings new life to earth. Set every peak and valley humming with the news: the Lord is coming. People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.*

WELCOME: Pastor Beverly Collinsworth

Priest: Blessed be God, Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.

**Everyone: And Blessed be his Kingdom, now and forever. Amen**

Priest: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open and all desires known and from you no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Everyone: *Come let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.***

***Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.***

***For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.***

***In his hand are the caverns of the earth, and the heights of the hills are his also.***

***The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands have molded the dry land.***

***Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, and kneel before the Lord our Maker.***

***For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!***

Priest: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Priest: Let us Pray:

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**People: Amen**

**LESSONS:** *Please be seated for the readings of the lessons*.

**1st LESSON:** **Micah 5:2-5a**

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

Reader: Here ends a reading from the Book of Micah.

**Response: Thanks be to God.**

**The Psalms:** Psalm 80:1-7

### *Let us read it responsively by full verse.*

Reader: Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

**Response: In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.**

Reader: Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

**Response: O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?**

Reader: You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

**Response: You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

Reader: Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Reader: Here ends the reading of the Psalm.

**Response: Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE:** Hebrews 10:5-10

When Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Reader: Here ends a reading from the Book of Hebrews.

**Response: Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL HYMN***: The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came #265*

***1. The angel Gabriel from heaven came, his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame; "All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary, most highly favored lady," Gloria!***

***2. "For know a blessed Mother thou shalt be, all generations laud and honor thee, thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold, most highly favored lady," Gloria!***

***3. Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head, "To me be as it pleaseth God," she said, "my soul shall laud and magnify his holy Name." Most highly favored lady, Gloria!***

Priest: Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.

Priest/Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ according to St. Luke.

**Response: Glory to you Lord Christ.**

**The Gospel:** Luke 1:39-45(46-55)

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." [And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."]

**Everyone: Praise to You Lord Christ.**

**MESSAGE: Pastor Beverly Collinsworth**

**MESSAGE RESPONSE: Carson Weingart**

**NICENE CREED**

Priest: Let us confess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed:

**Everyone: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son, he is worshiped and glorified.**

**He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:**

LEM/Deacon: Let us give thanks to God our Father for all his gifts so freely bestowed upon us.

Reader: For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea.

**Response:** **We thank you, Lord.**

Reader: For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women, revealing the image of Christ,

**Response: We thank you, Lord.**

Reader: For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends,

**Response:** **We thank you, Lord.**

Reader: For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve,

**Response:** **We thank you, Lord.**

Reader: For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play,

**Response**: **We thank you, Lord.**

Reader: For the brave and courageous, who are patient in suffering and faithful in adversity,

**Response**: **We thank you, Lord.**

​Reader: For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, and justice,

**Response: We thank you, Lord.**

Reader: For the communion of saints, in all times and places,

**Response:** **We thank you, Lord.**

Reader: Let us pray for those who suffer and are in need of care, that they may be comforted, especially those we name together: **Larry, Annette, William, Brian, Theresa, Nancy, Bill, Mike M., Nana Jo, Patricia K. , Fr. John, Alec, David, Michael, Steve, Sue, Linda, Donna, and Catherine.**

**Response:** **Lord in your mercy hear our Prayer.**

Reader: Let us pray for the men and women serving our country in the armed forces, especially: **Mitchell, Michael, Ethan, Emily, Alan, Chris, Chelsey, the 200th Red Horse Squadron, and the 983rd Army Combat Engineer Battalion. Protect, guide, and comfort them and bring them home safely when their work is done.**

**Response:** **Lord in your mercy hear our prayer**.

Reader: Let us pray silently or aloud for those special in our lives.

SILENCE

**Response: Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.**

Reader: Above all, we give you thanks for the great mercies and promises given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord;

**Response: To him be praise and glory, with you, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.**

LEM/Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God and one another:

**Everyone: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Priest: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

Priest: Let us all pray for peace in our world.

**EVERYONE: Lord, Healer of the Nations, from the noise of war and the drumbeat of vengeance, give us undiminished determination to wage peace. Out of brokenness, violence, and destruction let us plant seeds of hope. Out of chaos, confusion, and hatred, let us build bridges of love.**

**Out of distrust, disunity, and distance, let us walk together in harmony. Heal our divisions, make us whole, and bring us peace. Amen.**

**OFFERTORY: Carson Weingart**

**COMMUNION:**

Priest: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also, with you.**

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Priest: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Priest: Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**People:** **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Priest: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

Priest: On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Priest: After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Priest: Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Everyone: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Priest: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Priest: Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him.

Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

Priest: All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

**Everyone: AMEN, AMEN, AMEN**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

Priest: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

**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, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Priest: Alleluia, Christ our Passover Lamb is sacrificed for us.

**People: Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Priest: The Gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving**.**

Priest: Let us pray with those who are unable to receive the Eucharist with us this morning:

**EVERYONE: Dear Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Holy Sacrament, but since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, I ask that you come spiritually into my heart.**

**Unite me with you and never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.**

Priest: St. Thomas practices open communion which means that all baptized Christians are welcome at the Lord’s Table.

**Communion can be received either by drinking from the Chalice or by intinction. Either way is acceptable. The small Chalice is for intinction only.**

**COMMUNION: Carson Weingart**

Priest: The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven**.**

LEM/Deacon: The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.

Priest: Let us Pray:

**Everyone: Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us spiritually with the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.**

**Send us now into the world in peace and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**People: Amen**

Priest: May the Lord bless you and keep you, May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you, May the Lord look upon you with favor and bring you peace.

**RECESSIONAL HYMN**: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus #66

***1.  Come, thou long-expected Jesus born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.***

***2. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art: dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.***

***3. Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king, born to reign in us for ever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.***

*Please be seated for the Postlude.*

**POSTLUDE: Carson Weingart**

LEM/Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God**.

THANKS: Pastor Beverly Collinsworth

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**