

December 22, 2024
Fourth Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE "I'm in the Mood for Love" McHugh / Fields

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE 4TH ADVENT CANDLE

Tessa, Troy, Jacob, and Nora Edmondson
"Advent's Holy Light" Raney

You are invited to join in singing (the music is on an insert):

Lord, we are waiting for peace to reign.

Lord, we are listening for love's refrain.

For hope, peace, and joy and love to unite

in the beauty and wonder of Advent's holy light.

Then, join in this litany:

Love creates the bonds that provide us
with deep meaningful relationships.

The greatest of all gifts is love.

Love inspires random acts of kindness and generosity.

The greatest of all gifts is love.

Love causes us to only look for the best in others.

The greatest of all gifts is love.

Love allows us to be accepted for who we are, flaws and all.

The greatest of all gifts is love.

Then we will repeat the refrain.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

+**HYMN: GTG #97** "Watchman, Tell Us of the Night" ABERYSTWYTH

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God our Savior, we ask for your mercy.

Though we have heard Mary's song,

we still seek security in pride and power and possessions.

Though we know your story,

we resist the costs of following you.

We pass by those considered lowly in this world.

We turn away from hungry people who still wait to be filled.

Forgive us, we pray.

Help us to work for the justice you intend.

Make us messengers of the peace you bring.

As we wait for you, turn our apathy into acts of love and service.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

... In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

HYMN: GTG #99

"My Soul Gives Glory to My God (Song of Mary)"

MORNING SONG

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

... Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Children and youth are dismissed to Sunday School

MESSAGE FROM THE MISSION COMMITTEE

Christmas Joy Offering

Rex Hauser

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"Almost There"

Smith / King / Grant

arr. Sorenson

+**RESPONSE: GTG #113** "Angels We Have Heard on High" (refrain) GLORIA

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

+**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

+**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

from *The Scots Confession*

(Scotland, 1560)

When the fullness of time came God sent his Son, his eternal wisdom, the substance of his own glory, into this world, who took the nature of humanity from the substance of a woman, a virgin, by means of the Holy Ghost. And so was born the "just seed of David," the "Angel of the great counsel of God," the very Messiah promised, whom we confess and acknowledge to be Emmanuel, true God and true man, two perfect natures united and joined in one person.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Micah 5:2-5a

O.T. page 667

From Bethlehem comes a ruler

CANTICLE OF MARY (MAGNIFICAT) Luke 1:46b-55

My spirit rejoices in God

N.T. page 44

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Hebrews 10:5-10

I have come to do your will

N.T. page 176

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 1:39-45

N.T. page 43

Blessed are you among women

RESPONSE TO SCRIPTURE

This is the promise of God to our ancestors and to us.

Thanks be to God.

Luke 1:72

SPECIAL MUSICAL PRESENTATION

"It Is Well with My Soul"

Words by Horatio G. Spafford (1828-1888)

Music by Philip P. Bliss (1838-1876)

Arranged by Mack Wilberg

Presented by the Mason First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary Choir

Director: Deb Melse

Narrator: Peter Robinson

Horatio Spafford: Tim Hammond

Horatio's Friend: Bill Pinches

Anna Spafford: Emelia Hammond

Ship Captain: Isaac Reyes

Anne: Violet Mackey

Bedouin Couple: Jasmine Leffew

Margaret: Erin McGonigal

and Sam Pinches

Bessie: Caidra VanDyke

Civil War Soldier: Sam VanDyke

Tanetta: Jo Hammond

Nurse Maid: Michelle Mackey

Spafford Son: Calvin Hammond

American Colony Town People:

Bertha Spafford: Sarah Fay-Koutz

Jill Castle, Keren Tayong

Jerusalem Children and Townspeople:

Leah Harkness, Tyler Harkness, Ben Pinches

Special Thank You:

Le Je, piano, and Laura Johnson, organ

+**HYMN: GTG #105**

"People, Look East"

BESANÇON

+**CHARGE**

Go in peace, trusting in the promises of God. Amen.

+**BLESSING**

... this day and forevermore. Alleluia!

+**MUSICAL BENECTION**

Miller / Jackson / Sherman

"Let There Be Peace on Earth"

Sanctuary Bells

POSTLUDE

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Mendelssohn

You are invited to join us
for fellowship and refreshments
after worship in the Memorial Room.

It is not necessary to remain seated during the postlude.

SERVING US TODAY

Liturgist: Lucinda Davenport

Guest Organist: Laura Johnson

Greeters: Kurt Immekus and Debbie Shellenbarger

Next Week's Greeters: Mary and Will Ozee

Sound: Marty Subject

Livestream: Tami Chapman

Security: Will Ozee

THE STUDY CATECHISM

Question 36. How did God use the people of Israel to prepare the way for the coming of Jesus?

God made a covenant with Israel, promising that God would be their light and their salvation, that they would be God's people, and that through them all the peoples of the earth would be blessed. Therefore, no matter how often Israel turned away from God, God still cared for them and acted on their behalf. In particular, God sent them prophets, priests and kings. Each of these was "anointed" by God's Spirit — prophets, to declare God's word; priests, to make sacrifice for the people's sins; and kings, to rule justly in the fear of God, upholding the poor and needy, and defending the people from their enemies.

CREDITS

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Mason First Presbyterian Church

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Office hours: Monday to Thursday, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

MINISTERS

All Members

STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Bill Pinches

Parish Associate: Rev. Dr. Jim Hegedus

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Charlie Herrick

Spiritual Growth Director: Lori Filka

Sanctuary Choir Director / Bell Choir Director: Deb Melse

Office Manager: Jessica Tessman

Financial Secretary: Jess Weber

Choral Music Accompanist: Le Ji

Sexton: Eric VanDyke

Office Assistant: Nancy Sue MacDonald

Adult Spiritual Growth Coordinator: Michelle Mackey

Child Care: Jill Castle, Hannah Koutz, Jasmine Leffew, Violet Mackey, Sam Pinches, Lucy Simons, Keren Tayong

ELDERS

Class of 2024: Jerry Ambrose, Lucinda Davenport, Loren Harkness, Tonya Seely.

Class of 2025: Doreen Chapman, Mary Garland Jackson, Monte Shuck.

Class of 2026: Bruce Archer (*Clerk of Session*), Ginnie Gibson, Jane Hamelink, Tim Hammond

Elders-Elect: Travis Archer, Dan Baker, Evelyn Tayong, Steve Sowles (three-year terms); Greg Lang (one-year term)

DEACONS

Class of 2024: Donna Hujsak (*Secretary*), Issie Nielsen, Camille Subject.

Class of 2025: Marge Clarke, Julie Dart, Timothy Pinches, Tom Seely (*Moderator*).

Class of 2026: Ron Dlouhy (*Treasurer*), Bill Leutscher, Sandy Leutscher, Nancy Sue MacDonald, Laurie McGonigal

Deacons-Elect: Donna Archer, Rick Cote, Debbie Johnson, Issie Nielsen

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Today	Adult Sunday School	11:30 am
Tuesday	Christmas Eve	
	Church Office closed	
	Christmas Eve worship service	6:30 pm
Wednesday	Nativity of the Lord / Christmas Day	
	Church Office closed / No church events today	
Thursday	Limited office hours	
Friday	Church Office closed / Pastor's Sabbath	
Saturday	Deacons Christmas Gift Distribution	
Dec. 26-31	Pastor Bill on vacation	

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Dec. 23: Jay Harkness	Dec. 24: Susan Blonshine
Dec. 25: Barbara Georgescu	Dec. 27: Dave Barber
Dec. 28: Lisa Castle	Dec. 28: Aimee Cruickshank

Mason First Presbyterian Church

December 22, 2024 Fourth Sunday of Advent



The Annunciation
by Henry Ossawa Tanner, 1898

*A warm and caring Christ-centered community of faith,
actively serving and nurturing one another and our neighbors,
embracing diversity, and fostering spiritual growth*