



December 20, 2020
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Rev. Gordon Miller

PRELUDE

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leader: We welcome all in the name of Jesus the Christ.

ALL: We welcome the young and elderly, visitors and members, friends and families, rich and poor, able and disabled. We welcome all to this church in the name of Christ Jesus our Savior.

HYMN

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

#153

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Watch! Wait! The day of God is at hand!

ALL: Like the bud on a tree, God's promises are about to blossom!

Leader: Stay awake! The reign of God is very near.

ALL: We are here, watching and waiting with hope and love. May God's reign come on earth as in heaven.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER (debts...debtors)

Almighty God, by the birth of your holy child, Jesus, you have given us a great light to shine upon our darkness. Grant, we pray, that in this light we may see light. Provide for us all your most excellent Christmas gift of love. May your love through Christ be so formed in us that our world might become more characteristic of your holy kingdom. We offer our prayer in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray saying...

"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 power, and the glory forever. Amen"

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Reader 1: O God, we light the fourth candle of Advent, the candle of Peace.

Reader 2: We hear your angel Gabriel and witness the faith of Mary. Fill us with your grace and light.

Reader 1: Mary was a young, strong, spiritual woman. Even though her life was not easy, she heard God's voice and said yes. Her song was a prayer that would uplift those who were downtrodden. Her lyrics shattered the proud and called the world to change. She would bear within her the promised child, Jesus, the Light of the World. This Advent, we respond to God's beckoning to us as well.

Reader 2: Revealing God, visit us and fill us with your Spirit. Bring your good news to life within us. Give us courage to carry your light into the injustices and shadows of this world. Amen.

All: Shine on us, O God of justice;
Guide our path through gloom of night;
Bear within us Wisdom's glory;
Come to us, O Christ the Light.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1: 26-38

Message

"Receiving God's Gift"

Rev Gordon Miller

PASTORAL PRAYER - (Silent Prayer and Prayer Concerns)

OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Loving God, we thank you for our church which is a place where we learn about love and seek to practice it; where we envision peace and work to build it; where we meet partners in faith who wish to abandon everything that cheapens our discipleship; where we discover gifts and offer them. May your Spirit guide us toward love, peace, joy, and generosity, in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

BENEDICTION**SINGING BENEDICTION (ALL)** Traditional to First Congregational Church

Now unto Him, who is able to keep, able to keep you from falling and present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy. To the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen.

Jude 24-25 KJV/NRSV

POSTLUDE*"On Jordan's Bank The Baptist's Cry"*

We thank all who have participated in today's worship service: Our Worship Leader Rev Gordon Miller, our Musician Jacklyn Belmonte, our Advent Wreath liturgists and scripture reader Cindi & Lionel Menard and our videographer Laura Burne. Thanks to all of you in our faith community for your support and for participating from near and afar.

Please note that we have included the words of today's hymns because they are spiritually meaningful and compliment the music but, in compliance with our Covid Protocols, we ask you not to sing.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

153

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.
 Israel's Strength and Consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art;
 Dear Desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.

2. Born Thy people to deliver, Born a child and yet a King,
 Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
 By Thine own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone;
 By Thine all-sufficient merit, Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

176

1. Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates,
Behold the King of glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near,
The Savior of the world is here;
2. Fling wide the portals of your heart,
Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for Heaven's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy;
3. Redeemer, come! I open wide
My heart to Thee—here, Lord, abide!
Let me Thy inner presence feel,
Thy grace and love in me reveal,
4. So come, my Sovereign, enter in!
Let new and nobler life begin!
Your Holy Spirit guide us on,
Until the glorious crown be won.