



# A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

December 20, 2020  
Fourth Sunday of Advent

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## PEACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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[www.peacepresbyterian.org](http://www.peacepresbyterian.org)

**Grow in Grace, Live in Peace, Serve the Lord**

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## We Gather as God's People

### RINGING OF THE BELL

### WELCOME

This is the day the Lord has made.

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

### PRELUDE

From the Shepherd Tunes of Daphnis, Op 58

Christian Ernst

1. Introduction 2. Aria 3. Improvisation

Chris Mann, soprano recorder

### CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE PROPHET, BETHLEHEM, SHEPHERD AND ANGEL CANDLES

Russ Lemken, liturgist

One: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9)

**All: The Advent Wreath reminds us of God's eternal love; without beginning and without end. The candles of the wreath remind us of the biblical story of God's unconditional love. We light the first candle of the Advent Wreath, the Prophets' candle, to remind us of the hope the prophets declared for the coming of the Messiah.**

One: We light the second candle of the Advent Wreath, the Candle of Bethlehem, to remind us that Mary and Joseph journeyed to Bethlehem and it was there that their son Jesus was born in a stable.

**All: We light the third candle of the Advent Wreath, the Shepherds' Candle, to remind us that the good news of great joy was first shared with ordinary shepherds while they cared for their sheep.**

One: We light the fourth candle of the Advent Wreath, the Angels' Candle, to remind us that it was God's messengers, the angels, who proclaimed the good news of Jesus' birth.

### HYMN

#### Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king.  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful all ye nations rise; join the triumph of the skies;  
with angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king."

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)**

God of Love Incarnate, we confess that, with the shepherds, we are terrified of your glory; for in glory's light we see plainly all that is wrong with the world; how oppression enslaves; how those seeking refuge still find no place of safety; how many people struggle to survive with a place to live and food to eat. We also see what is wrong in us: how passionately we pursue the things of this world, but forget to ponder the mystery of faith; how we do not practice the peace you intend in our relationships and our community. Forgive us, we pray, and help us not to be afraid. Like the shepherds, we want to follow and find you. We pray in the savior's name and lift up our silent individual confessions.

*(Silent Confession)*

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Good news! Great joy! In Jesus Christ the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all! Glory to God in heaven and on earth, peace!

**RESPONSE TO GOD'S FORGIVENESS** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, verse 1  
Peggy Vaughan, soprano

**SCRIPTURE READING** **Luke 2: 1-20**

**SERMON** **"The Blessings of Interruptions"** Reverend Debbie Osterhoudt

**SPECIAL MUSIC** From the Shepherd Tunes of Daphnis, Op 58 Christian Ernst  
4. Call 5. Dance  
Chris Mann, soprano recorder

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

*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 the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

**HYMN** **The First Nowell**

The first Nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain: Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. (Refrain)

**WE GO FORTH AS GOD'S PEOPLE**

**BENEDICTION**

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** **May the Love of the Lord** SOON TI

May the love of the Lord rest upon your soul.  
May God's love dwell in you, throughout every day.  
May God's countenance shine upon you and be gracious to you.  
May God's Spirit be upon you as you leave this place.

**POSTLUDE**

From the Shepherd Tunes of Daphnis, Op 58

Christian Ernst

6. Elegy 7. Epilogue

Chris Mann, soprano recorder

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**Worship Leadership** Rev. Debbie Osterhoudt, Preacher Russ Lemken, Liturgist  
Peggy Vaughan, Music Director and Soloist John Holter, piano Chris Mann, soprano recorder  
Ron Skinner, Audio & Video Joanne Lang, Worship Ministry Team Chair