

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2020

SAINT GILES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THOSE
WHO *are*
not alone
DREAM
4TH sunday in advent

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: I knew joy, but when I heard the laugh of my child,

All: Suddenly, joy was overflowing.

One: I knew love, but when you held my hand,

All: Suddenly, love was overflowing.

One: I knew God, but when you showed me grace,
when you forgave me,
when you loved me,
when you raised me,

All: Suddenly, God was overflowing.

One: So, let us worship Holy God together
As a reminder that God is here and we are never alone.

All: This is community.

One: This is the body of Christ.

All: Welcome home.

SONG # *Come Light Our Hearts*

Sandra McCrackan

Chorus:

For You, O Lord our souls in stillness wait

For You, O Lord our souls in stillness wait

Truly our hope is in You

Truly our hope is in You

O Lord of life, our only hope

Your radiance shines

On all who look to You in the dark

Emmanuel come, come light our hearts

Chorus

Oh Joy above, all other loves

In You we find, more than enough

We come as we are, O heal and restore,

Come light our hearts

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE – THE CANDLE OF LOVE

The Abernathy/Tremont Family

Voice One: I dream of music that makes my heart swell.

Voice Two: I dream of trees that take my breath away.

One: I dream of sunrises that wrap me in light.

Two: I dream of family dinners that feel like home.

One: I dream of church services that give me hope.

Two: I dream of love as the default.

One: So today, as we draw near to Christmas day, we light the candle of love.

The Candle of Love is lit.

Two: May this light burn bright as a reminder that God is here and God is love.
One: We are not alone. Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.

PSALM Psalm 89: 1-14, 19-26

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.
Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations,
“The Lord has done great things for them.”
The Lord has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced.

Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses in the Negeb.
May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.
Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves.

One: The word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

SONG # 128 *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

*Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging
angels singing,
noels ringing,
tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all!
Christ the babe is Lord of all!*

*Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of the gospel true.
Thus rejoicing,
free from sorrow,
praises voicing
greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you!
Christ the babe was born for you!*

CALL TO CONFESSION

We cannot come before God unless we are first honest with ourselves about who we are, about the mistakes we make, and about how well or poorly we care for others.

In this spirit, let us offer our prayers to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Good News,
You say to us, "You are highly favored," but we struggle to see how that could be.
You say to us, "Do not be afraid," but we are afraid all the time.
You say to us, "Even the impossible is possible, just look at Elizabeth!"
But hope slips through our hands like water.
The impossible still feels impossible.

So today we pray,
Today we pray:
Teach us to sing like Mary.
Teach us to laugh like Elizabeth.
Teach us to trust like the angels.
Forgive us when we can only do one at a time, or none at all.
Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

One: God the Creator brings us new life, forgives and redeems us. Let us take hold of this forgiveness, and live our lives in the Spirit of Jesus. In Christ we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God!

TIME WITH CHILDREN

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 forever, 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.

One: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Love Says It All

Rev. Lance Perry

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Oh Holy Wisdom, Divine Speech, Eloquent Word of God, as you spoke to call forth the creation of this cosmos, speak again: Show us the way of life through your coming.

O Come O Come, Emmanuel.

Oh Ruler of all nations, Lord of all time and space, you hold humanity together. As you lovingly formed us from the dust of the earth, lovingly reform, save, and renew us, we pray.

O Come O Come, Emmanuel.

O Immanuel, our Lord and lawgiver, our hope and desire, come mightily to save us; our trust is in you.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

Promise-keeping God, we rejoice in your faithfulness. Our hearts overflow with hope as we express our longing for the advent of our Lord. Prepare us to receive, honor, and follow him, our Messiah, the King of kings and Lord of lords who taught us to pray...

**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.**

O Come O Come, Emmanuel

CLOSING SONG # 113 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

*Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

BENEDICTION

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, let us strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying: Come, Lord Jesus!

POSTLUDE

Thank you to Mona Dowell, Dave Smith, and Eddie Adams for providing the music and technical support for our worship podcast.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please Pray for these Members, Relatives and Friends.

Please note these newer prayer concerns:

Roberta Dibble as she recovers from COVID-19

Brittney Hix, sister of Emmie our Office Administrator, as she recovers from COVID-19

We continue to pray for:

Pat Lindsay
Charolette Brown
Dan Grassi
Inez Ruchte
Donna Nichols

Rachel Williams
Libby Morton
Aleta Wheeler
Jeane Nagel
Andrew Scharfe

Sandra Richbourg
Dick Grassi
Barbara Settlemire
Joe Moody
Dave Smith

We continue to pray for these family and friends of Saint Giles members:

Sallie Taylor's sister, Janet

Jan Morgan's daughter, Anna

Betty Fetvedt's sister, Peggy

Marti Ranney's friend Sherrill

Janet Wherry's sons David & Stephen, & her sister Ev

Rachel & Rodney Williams' daughter, Rene

Pat & Bob Lindsay's granddaughter Rebecca, niece Stephanie & family, sister Eloise Rohner,
& niece Eloise Lindsay

Chris Zaineddin's friend Peggy, nieces Colleen, & Sourour Dehnadi, brother Ken, & friend
Paul Hutter & family

Dave & Rita Hart's friend Terry, and neighbors Sarah and Wayne

Roberta Dibble's friend Margaret Rothman

Carmen Rosa, along with Tania Valentine & Maurice Kersey

Friends of Hess & Hart families, Max & Leatha Carey & family, & Allen Lee & Family

Kimberly & Chad Craven's friend & her family

Kathy & Bob Wolinski's daughter, Amy

Cindy Hemminger & family following her 5 year old cousin Hazel's diagnosis with Leukemia

Donald and Nancy Ross' friend Terri McIrvine, and her husband and daughters

Mary Ellen Jackson's cousin Betty Turner

Scott Vollmer's mother, Lois

Nathan Whittle's aunt Pauline and her son

Carol Pope's sister, Kathy; brother, David; sister-in-law, Kacy

*requests in bold have been recently added or are in need of special prayer.