

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO**

December 18, 2022

10:00am

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

GATHERING

PRESERVICE MUSIC

“The First Nowell”

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

“Mary, Did You Know?”

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

“Emmanuel, Emmanuel”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING OF PRAYER REQUESTS

LIGHTING THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE (Doug & Wendy Lunsford)

Jesus says: I am coming soon.

Amen. Come Lord Jesus!

We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ. As the Lord has promised, in days to come...

The nations shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks;

nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

(Light the first candle)

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid,

the calf and the lion and the fatling will lie down together, and a little child shall lead them.

(Light the second candle)

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom;

like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

(Light the third candle)

The Lord will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child.

She shall bear a son, and name him Emmanuel: “God is with us.”

(Light the fourth candle)

Let us walk in the light of the Lord. **Amen.**

CHIMES

(The pouring of water invites us to remember and to celebrate our baptism into the body of Christ.)

PRELUDE

“Fantasia on ‘Adeste Fidelis’” (Smith)

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Please exchange these words with your immediate neighbors: “The peace of the Lord be with you.” “And also with you.”

CALL TO WORSHIP

God with us, Immanuel, comes to give us our own Holy Family, here with the body of Christ this day.

Rejoice and be glad!

Let us worship God.

***OPENING HYMN #88**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

(verses 1, 6 & 7) (Plainsong/Arr. Weaver)

***PRAYER OF ADORATION**

Eternal God of power and grace, Who comes to us in surprising ways—in angel appearances, in defeat of enemies, and resurrection from the dead—show us the face of Immanuel in our time. Bring us from fear to awe, we pray; in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

***GLORIA PATRI #581**

“Glory Be to the Father” (Greatorex)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Assured that God hears our repentance, let us turn our minds to the truth, confessing our sins to God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Shepherd of Israel, God of hosts, we have turned away from you, neglecting the welfare of your people, trampling on the creatures and the plants you have made, taking from Earth what we cannot give back. We have not helped our neighbors in need, kept peace within our families, or tended the vine you have planted in our own lives. Forgive us and lead us to a more gracious life. In your compassion, turn us to your way. Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

“You are called to belong to Jesus Christ.” For the sake of the One God promised to send, named as God’s Son, who died, was raised, and through whom we receive grace, God forgives us all our sins. We are God’s beloved, called to be saints. Grace to you and peace. Friends, hear the Good News of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

As your Holy Spirit spoke to Mary, speak to us now through your Word that by hearing we too may receive faith and be strengthened to do your will.
Amen.

MOMENT FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 7:10-16

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Romans 1:1-7

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Christmas Sanctus” (Dengler) (Choir Ensemble)

(Please stand for the reading of the Gospels if you are able)

***READING FROM THE GOSPELS**

Matthew 1:18-25

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

***HYMN #119**

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” (Mendelssohn)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible. All things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn of the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

All that we have is the Lord's. All that we may become and receive is in God's hands. For the sake of the joy that is ours when our bonds grow deep with others, let us give generously for the well-being of the world.

MUSICAL OFFERING

"In the Bleak Midwinter" (Rasley)

*DOXOLOGY #606

Genevan Psalter

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

Holy God, you bless us with many gifts, you retrieve us from despair and fear, you visit us with surprising proclamations and you intend for us good things. We thank you now for your steadfast love, for sending signs of assurance, and for the gift of faith. Use our gifts to bring comfort and justice to those in need, reforming the ways of our world for the sake of new life. Amen.

*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 and ever. Amen.**

SENDING

*CLOSING HYMN #384

"Soon and Very Soon" (Crouch)

(December hymn of the month)

*MOMENT OF SILENCE TO PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*POSTLUDE

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

*Please stand if you are able where asterisks are printed.

Words in **bold print** are spoken by the congregation.

Elements of Worship Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion*. Copyright 2012.