

Welcome

PINNACLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, December 12, 2021 | 10:00 am

Third Sunday of Advent

Prelude

Wexford Carol

Still, Still, Still

Chip King, bassoon • Ilona Kubiaczyk-Adler, piano

Irish trad., arr. C. McMichael

Austrian trad., arr. C. McMichael

Words of Welcome

Michael Hegeman

***Call to Worship**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Congregation

**O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

Lighting the Candle of JOY

The Baerveldt Family

Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Today we light the candle of JOY.

Even in the midst of trying times, we persevere in joy, giving voice to God's presence yet again.

* Opening Hymn

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?

No. 11

1 *O Lord, how shall I meet You,
How welcome You aright?
Your people long to greet You,
My hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, Lord most holy,
A lamp within my breast,
To do in spirit lowly
All that may please You best.*

3 *A glorious crown You give me,
A treasure safe on high,
That will not fail nor leave me
As earthly riches fly.
My heart shall bloom forever
For You with praises new,
And from Your name shall never
Withhold the honor due.*

2 *Love caused Your incarnation,
Love brought you down to me;
Your thirst for my salvation
Procured my liberty.
O love beyond all telling,
That led You to embrace
In love, all loves excelling
Our lost and fallen race.*

Call to Confession

Brandon Huenemann

Common Confession and Assurance (unison)

Brandon Huenemann

God of the past, present and future, you are coming in power to set all things right. We are often so distracted by the season's busyness, and by the stress of commitment, that we overlook the true meaning of Christmas. Forgive us when we miss seeing you in our midst, for the times we have doubted your presence, and for when we fail to hold the holidays as holy days. In this season of waiting, prepare us for the greatest gift of all: Jesus, our coming Lord. Now hear our silent prayers of confession. (Silence.)

* **Congregational Response**

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry
**All praise to You, eternal Son,
Whose advent has our freedom won,
Whom with the Father we adore,
And Holy Spirit, evermore. Amen.**

No. 10, v. 4

* **Passing of the Peace**

Brandon Huenemann

Children's Message

Hillary Mackowski

Choral Response

**Go, my children with my blessing, never alone;
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own;
In my love's baptismal river, I have made you mine forever,
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.**

Our Common Life

Ministry Moment

Michael Hegeman
Marti King, for the Fran Park Center

For those joining us online, you may make your donation by texting pinnaclepres to 833-245-8445 or online at pinnaclepres.org/give

Offertory

Musical Offering

Go, Tell It On The Mountain
Chip King, bassoon • Ilona Kubiacyk-Adler, piano

arr. M. Hayes

* Doxology (*Old Hundredth*, no. 592)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures here below.

Praise God above, ye heavenly host.

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Scripture Readings & Responsorial Refrain

Luke 1:26-32

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

Zander Mina

Matthew 1:18-24

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

Mylo Mina

Luke 2:8-15

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

Scarlett Mina

Matthew 2:1-7

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

Michael Hegeman

Sermon

Setting the Stage Pt. 3: Preparing

Michael Hegeman

Common Prayer, Lord's Prayer (unison)

Michael Hegeman

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

No. 8

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!*

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.*

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.*

* Please rise, lift your head, lift your arms, or lift your spirit.

About the Advent Wreath

This season, we enjoy an Interactive Advent Wreath. The first week, our readers added a beautiful ribbon as we bind our church family together during this season of anticipation. Last week, we added red berries, representing the blood that Jesus shed on the cross on the day he was crucified. Today, we add cinnamon sticks reminding us of the gifts the Wise Men brought for our newborn King!

About the Music

Today's music reflects the Advent theme of joy. The *Wexford Carol* originated in County Wexford, Ireland, likely in the 15th or 16th century. It speaks of the "joyful minds" the shepherds had as they went to find Jesus. *Still, Still, Still* is a folk song from the area around Salzburg, Austria, and was first published in 1865. In this lullaby the angels sing "sweetest songs of joy" to the infant Jesus.

The offertory *Go Tell It on the Mountain* is all about the joy of spreading the news of Jesus' birth. The composer of the postlude, Daniel Read, was a maker of ivory and horn combs in early America. He wrote enough good tunes and compiled useful collections between 1785 and 1810 to make him one of the most prominent American musicians of the day. Its joyful tune reminds us that joy abounds this Advent season.

Notes of Interest

Ushers are Leslie Colliopoulos, Rick Hess, Nancy Holloran, Suzanne Moon, Wayne Stingley, and Diane Wenger; **Head Usher** is Mark Steel.

Student Greeters are Zachary, Addison, Blake, & Cailyn Baerveldt.

The Flowers are given by Mary Upchurch, in loving memory of James and in honor of what would have been their 33rd wedding anniversary.

About the Lord's Prayer: In response to our completed worship series, with emphasis on the Lord's Prayer, we are using the more recent translation of the Lord's Prayer from the *Presbyterian Book of Common Worship*, 2018 edition, in today's service. Worshippers may want to pray in versions or languages of their choosing. A variety of voices, words, and languages may join together in a shared voice of prayer.

Scripture

Luke 1:26-32

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." 29 But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30 The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32 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.

Matthew 1:18-24

The Birth of Jesus the Messiah

18 Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. 20 But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." 22 All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

23 "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." 24 When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife,

Luke 2:8-15

The Shepherds and the Angels

8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."

Matthew 2:1-7

The Visit of the Wise Men

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2
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asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” 3 When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; 4 and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

6 ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men[e] and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared.

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Prayer Requests

Please pray for the following members & friends:

- *For Giselle and her family;*
- *For Susan P., who has COVID;*
- *For Joe, in the ICU;*
- *For Jennifer, who fell and cracked her skull;*
- *For Cameron, with glioblastoma, and his family;*
- *For our men and women in the military.*

Contact Lisa Boswell at prayer@pinnaclepres.org or call 480.585.9448 to add your request to the Pinnacle prayer list.

PINNACLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

25150 N. Pima Road | Scottsdale, AZ 85255 | 480-585-9448 | pinnaclepres.org