

# Welcome

PINNACLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, December 24, 2023 | 10:00 am

Fourth Sunday of Advent

## Prelude

*Christmas Medley*  
*Go Tell It On The Mountain*  
Bassoon Quartet

arr. Chip King  
American Spiritual

## Words of Welcome

Wes Avram

## Lighting of the Candle of LOVE

Mary Kuentler & Adam, Michelle, & Lily Rogers

*Prepare the Way of the Lord*  
(first sung by the Quartet, then by All)

No. 95

**Prepare the way of the Lord.  
Prepare the way of the Lord,  
And all people will see  
The salvation of our God.**

We light the candles of hope, peace, joy and add to it the candle of love.  
What a gift and a promise: Emmanuel, God is with us.  
Even when we forget to listen, to lean into God's presence,  
God is as close as our own breath.  
This, in a confused and confusing world,  
is a love that surpasses everything.

As we light our fourth Advent candle,  
All: **we rejoice with Mary, for Love has flesh.**  
Come now, O Child of Mary.  
All: **Come now, O Prince of Love.**

## \*Opening Hymn

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

No. 129

**1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming  
from tender stem hath sprung,  
of Jesse's lineage coming,  
by faithful prophets sung.  
It came, a floweret bright,  
amid the cold of winter,  
when half spent was the night.**

**2 Isaiah 'twas foretold it,  
the rose I have in mind;  
with Mary we behold it,  
the virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright**

cont'd ►

she bore for us a Savior,  
when half spent was the night.

3 This flower, whose fragrance tender  
with sweetness fills the air,  
dispels with glorious splendor  
the darkness everywhere.  
Enfleshed, yet very God,  
from sin and death he saves us  
and lightens every load.

Call to Confession

Leah Quarles

Common Confession and Assurance (unison)

Leah Quarles

Loving God, the one for whom we wait, we confess our restlessness. Emmanuel, God who is with us, we confess our lack of awareness of your presence. Gracious God, the one who loves us, we confess our sin. Give us rest. Help us see you. Forgive us. Now hear our silent prayers of confession. (silence)

\*Congregational Response (unison)

*In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful*

No. 654

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful;  
in the Lord I will rejoice!  
Look to God; do not be afraid.  
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.  
Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.

\*Passing of the Peace

Leah Quarles

One: The peace of our Lord be with you.  
All: And also with you.

Children's Message

Michael Hegeman

Children pre-K-5th Grade leave for Church School.  
6th-12th Grade Youth will remain in worship with their families.  
Nursery is available.

Congregational Response (unison)

No. 547

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

Wes Avram

For those joining us online, you may make your donation by texting  
pinnaclepres to 833-245-8445 or online at [pinnaclepres.org/give-now](https://pinnaclepres.org/give-now)

**Offertory**

Musical Offering

*In the Bleak Midwinter*

Harold Darke

Schae Chapman • Samantha Jorgensen • Thomas Strawser • Brady Larson Bassoon Quartet  
Ilona Kubiaczyk-Adler, director

*1 In the bleak midwinter,  
frosty wind made moan;  
earth stood hard as iron,  
water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.*

*2 Our God, heaven cannot hold him,  
nor earth sustain;  
heaven and earth shall flee away  
when he comes to reign:  
in the bleak midwinter  
a stable place sufficed  
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.*

*3 Enough for him, whom cherubim,  
Worship day and night.  
A breast full of milk,  
And a manger full of hay.  
Enough for him, whom angels,  
Fall down before,  
The ox and ass and camel, which adore.*

*4 What can I give him,  
poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd,  
I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man,  
I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.*

\*Doxology (unison)

**All creation, join in praising  
God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
evermore your voices raising  
to the eternal Three in One:  
come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king!**

No. 143

\*Prayer of Dedication

Wes Avram

**Scripture Reading**

Luke 1:26-38

Erik Khoobyarian

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**Sermon**

*Fiat*

Erik Khoobyarian

**Special Music**

*Of the Father's Love Begotten*  
Bassoon Quartet

13th-Century Carol

**Common Prayer, Lord's Prayer (unison)**

Leah Quarles

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.

**\*Closing Hymn**

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

No. 123

1 It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth,  
to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,  
from heaven's all-gracious King":  
the world in solemn stillness lay,  
to hear the angels sing.

2 Still through the cloven skies they come,  
with peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heavenly music floats  
o'er all the weary world:  
above its sad and lowly plains  
they bend on hovering wing,  
and ever o'er its Babel sounds  
the blessed angels sing.

3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife  
the world has suffered long;  
beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled  
two thousand years of wrong;  
and we at war on earth hear not  
the tidings that they bring;  
O, hush the noise and cease the strife  
to hear the angels sing!

4 And you, beneath life's crushing load,  
whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way  
with painful steps and slow,  
look now, for glad and golden hours

come swiftly on the wing:  
O, rest beside the weary road,  
and hear the angels sing.

5 For lo, the days are hastening on,  
by prophets seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years  
shall come the time foretold,  
when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendors fling,  
and the whole world give back the song  
which now the angels sing.

\*Charge & Benediction

Erik Khoobyarian

\*Sending Music

*Carol Medley*  
Ilona Kubiacyk-Adler, organ

arr. Behnke / Shackley / Hustad

\*Please rise.

## Scripture

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**Luke 1:26-38**

### **The Birth of Jesus Foretold**

26 In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, 27 to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. 30 But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. 31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

34 "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

35 The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. 36 Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. 37 For no word from God will ever fail."

38 "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

New Revised Standard Version Updated (NRSV)

## Notes of Interest

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**Ushers** are Robert Armstrong, Rick Hess, Suzanne Moon, Renee & Jed Schenck, Christie Slegers, and Gene Wade; **Head Usher** is Robert Slegers.

**Bassoon Quartet** members are Kristilyn Woods, Joey Kluesener, Chip King, & David Rachor.

**Hospitality** team members are Kaaren Gotwals & Mary Kuentler.

**The Flowers** are given by Heather & Lee Topping in memory of Kathryn Topping.

## Prayer Requests

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Please pray for the following members & friends:

- For Liana & her family, for strength & direction as she navigates a cancer diagnosis;
- For Rick, as he undergoes multiple surgeries;
- For my father beginning cancer treatments and his wife, awaiting cancer test results;
- For Cassie, with a severe head injury from an auto accident;
- For Jacob, for mental & physical healing;
- For our healthcare workers, first responders, and local and federal government workers who are serving our communities;
- For the people of Haiti and Harmony Ministries;
- For our men and women in the military.

To add your prayer requests to the Pinnacle prayer list, please email [prayer@pinnaclepres.org](mailto:prayer@pinnaclepres.org) or call 480.585.9448.

If you would like to join our prayer request email list to receive a weekly list of people needing your prayers and monthly prayer guidelines, please send your name and email to [prayer@pinnaclepres.org](mailto:prayer@pinnaclepres.org).