

Order of Worship
December 20, 2020
11:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

On Christmas Night

Center Street Ringers

GREETING/PASSING THE PEACE

Rev. David C. Freeman

OPENING HYMN

There's a Song in the Air

John Gill

*There's a song in the air!
There's a star in the sky!
There's a mother's deep prayer
and a baby's low cry!
And the star rains its fire
while the beautiful sing,
for the manger of Bethlehem
cradles a King!*

*There's a tumult of joy
o'er the wonderful birth,
for the virgin's sweet boy
is the Lord of the earth.
Ay! the star rains its fire
while the beautiful sing,
for the manger of Bethlehem
cradles a King!*

*In the light of that star
lie the ages impearled;
and that song from afar
has swept over the world.
Every hearth is aflame,
and the beautiful sing
in the homes of the nations
that Jesus is King!*

*We rejoice in the light,
and we echo the song
that comes down through the night
from the heavenly throng.
Ay! we shout to the lovely
evangel they bring,
and we greet in his cradle
our Savior and King!*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Donna Hankins

CHILDREN'S TIME

Tammy Felder

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

The Roddys

Reader One: We live on the brink every day. We stand on the threshold between this world and the next one. We live and move between the ordinary and divine, between the mundane and the mystery. Too often, we forget to look up and see the angels in our living room. We forget that the love we give and live is a sign of eternity, God with us, right now. We forget that company is coming.

Reader Two: Luke tells us that God's favor came to a girl, an ordinary girl. It might have been you or your daughter; it might have been the girl down the street or your grandchild. But the messenger of God came and greeted her and said, "The Lord is with you." What a gift and a promise: Emmanuel, God is with us.

Reader One: We light these candles with peace in our hearts for the promise of proximity, the nearness of God. Even when we forget to listen, to lean into that presence, God is as close as our own breath. This, in a confused and confusing world, is a peace that passes all understanding. It is the peace that knows that company is coming.

(The fourth candle is lighted.)

Reader Two: O Come, O Come Emmanuel.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Haley Jones

THE 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 trespasses as we forgive those, who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 1: 26-38

The Mills

SERMON

All the Earth is Waiting

Rev. Brittany Watson

OFFERTORY

Still, Still, Still

Allison Martin, Harp

ADVENT PRAYER

Charlotte Felder

The Advent story of hope and mystery, anticipation, preparation, a kingdom of this world and the next, and a king appearing when we least expect. Heaven touching earth, the footsteps of the divine walking dusty roads as once they did in Eden, and a people, searching for a Savior, and walking past the stable. Open eyes and hearts, that this might be an Advent of hope to the world.

HYMN OF COMMITMENT

Go Tell it on the Mountain

Center Street Ringers

Refrain:

*Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born.*

*While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light. [Refrain]*

*The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth. [Refrain]*

*Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn. [Refrain]*

BENEDICTION

Rev. Donna Hankins