

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:8-20
Leader: The Word of the Lord ~
People: Thanks be to God ~

Lg. print #1591 / pew #725
Lg. print / New ed. #1560

Sermon

'The Life Christmas Leads To'

Rev. Dr. Marc Shefelton

Pastoral Prayer and 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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."

***Doxology** Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Dismissing Hymn No. 141**

'O Little Town of Bethlehem'

***Benediction**

Postlude

'How Great Our Joy!'

~ Traditional German Melody

We're glad you joined us for worship today! We invite you to place your financial tithes and offerings in the basket in the back of the sanctuary before or following service. Thank you for placing the Bibles, hymnals and attendance books back on the chairs. Thank you.

CUP Officers...

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CUP EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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“Join us for a drink of Living Water”

December 24, 2023

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

We welcome you to the worship of God Almighty this Lord's Day. It is our intention to bring glory and honor to Him. God enters our time of worship and we remember this time belongs to Him. Your Worship Commission

**Please stand, if you are able.*

Nursery for children infant to 4 yrs. old is available upstairs in the Christian Education Wing (please see Usher for directions)

Meditation

"The Advent season is a season of waiting, but our whole life is an Advent season, that is, a season of waiting for the last Advent, for the time when there will be a new heaven and a new earth."

~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Westminster Chimes and Announcements

Opening Prayer

Prelude

'Away in a Manger'

Matthew McCandless, solo

The Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle

The Rider Family

*Call to Worship

(based on Luke 1:46-50)

Jale Haas, Lay Assistant

Leader: Let us go, in heart and mind, to see what has come to pass. Let us go with the shepherds:

People: Let us go to find the Savior!

Leader: Let us go with the wise ones:

People: Let us go to find God's promise, born for us!

Leader: Let us go with the poor and humble:

People: Let us go to find our King, born in a lowly manger.

Leader: Let us go with all the world, with all the peoples of the nations. Come, let us worship; come, let us adore him:

People: Christ the Lord!

*Hymn No. 135

'While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks' (verses 1-2, 4-5)

*Praise Songs

*'Go, Tell It On the Mountain'
'King of Kings'*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (In unison)

Holy God, you sent a star to guide the Magi to the child Jesus. We confess that we have not followed the light of your Word. We have not searched for signs of your love in the world or trusted your good news to be good. We have failed to praise your Son's birth and refused his peace on earth. We have expected little and hoped for less. Forgive our doubt and renew in us all fine desires, that we may watch and wait and once more hear the glad story of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the Lord. Amen. . . (silent prayers of confession)

Assurance of Pardon

*Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

*Affirmation of Faith

The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.