



THE WORSHIP OF GOD
Fourth Sunday of Advent
LOVE
December 20, 2020

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin
Senior Minister

MUSIC OF PREPARATION

Ye Who Claim the Faith of Jesus
Mr. Rick Massengale, organ

David Hurd

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Martin

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

Dr. Martin and **People**

The Mighty One has done great things! Holy is God's Name! The Light of the World is coming.
With Mary, our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.

God's mercy endures from generation to generation for those who are in awe of God.

The proud, the rich, the mighty no longer have power over us.

The lowly are lifted up, and the hungry are satisfied.

We see the light of God shining over the land.

We light a fourth candle in anticipation of the wondrous birth.

We will open our hearts that Love may have a place to dwell.

Congregational Sung Response:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

***HYMN**

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing.*



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*Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hill, and plains repeat the sounding joy.*

*No more let sins and sorrows grow, no thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love.*

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The Apostles' Creed

Dr. Martin and **People**

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 Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at 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 Spirit, the holy *catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen. *universal UMH 881

***GLORIA PATRI**

MEINEKE

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. Amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Offer one another signs of reconciliation and love:

“The peace of Christ be with you.” “And also with you.”

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Dr. Martin

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.

ANTHEM

The Angel Gabriel

Baring-Gould, Joel Raney

*The angel Gabriel from heaven came, his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame,
“All hail,” said he, “O lowly maiden Mary.” Most highly favored Mary, Gloria!
“For know a blessed mother you shall be, all generations praise continually,
your Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold.” Most highly favored Mary, Gloria!
You will bear the world a Savior, Lord of lords and King of kings!
Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head. “To me be as it pleases God,” she said.
“My soul shall laud and magnify God's name.”
Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say: most highly favored Mary, Gloria!*

***DOXOLOGY**

OLD 100th

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.

***PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

Dr. Martin and **People**

**Lord, open our hearts and minds
by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that, as the Scriptures are read
and your Word proclaimed,
we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.**

***SCRIPTURE LESSON**

Luke 1:26-38

Dr. Martin

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He 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. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' ³⁴Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' ³⁵The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.' ³⁸Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

May God bless the hearing of this scripture.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Carry the Light: Finding Favor

Dr. Martin

***HYMN**

Angels from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE

*Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!*

*Shepherds, in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing: yonder shines the infant light:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!*

*Saints, before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear;
suddenly the lord, descending, in his temple shall appear:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!*

***BENEDICTION**

Dr. Martin

*May the peace of Christ go with you wherever he may send you.
May he guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm.
May he bring you home rejoicing at the wonders he has shown you.
May he bring you home rejoicing once again into our arms.*

*Please stand in body or spirit.

Congregational responses are in **bold type**.

*Please exit by the chancel only.
Place bulletin in recycling bin or take it with you.
Offerings will be received by the chancel as you exit.*

Please remember in your prayers:

Billy Arnold
Van Askew
Carolyn Broady
Annelle Burch
Joe Byers

Quentin Cash
Richard Clayton
Summer Dorsey
Howard Dunham
Bob Garrett

Margaret Grainger
Martha Hale
Cindy Jennings
Doris Kerlin
Sara Morgan

Lurlene Perry
Claudia Rhodes
Norma Saunders
Mabel Wilbanks
Brad Wilkinson



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