

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Second Sunday of Advent PEACE December 6, 2020

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

Senior Minister

MUSIC OF PREPARATION Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming Michael Praetorius

Mr. Rick Massengale, organ

Announcements Dr. Martin

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

HOUSTON

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

Dr. Martin and **People**

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, says the Lord of hosts.

The light of hope has awakened our spirits.

A voice cries out in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."

Renew in us your covenant, O God, that we may be ready for the dawn of your salvation.

We light a second candle to bring light to every darkness, and to guide us in the way of peace.

With gratitude for your light, O God, we will prepare to welcome a new birth of your love.

Congregational Sung Response:

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

*HYMN O Come, O Come Emmanuel VENI EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.



Refrain

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

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh; to us the path of knowledge show and cause us in her ways to go.

O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to the tribes on Sinai's height in ancient time once gave the law in cloud and majesty and awe.

O come, thou Root of Jesse's tree, an ensign of thy people be; before thee rulers silent fall; all people on thy mercy call.

*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.

*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 Every Valley John Ness Beck

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain made low; and the crooked made straight, and the rough places plain.

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

Amen

*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 Isaiah 40:1-11 Dr. Martin

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." ⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

May God bless the hearing of this scripture.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON Carry the Light: Comfort Dr. Martin

*Hymn People Look East BESANCON

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.

Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.

People, look east and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there. Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish. people, look east and sing today; Love, the Rose, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim, shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.

People, look east and sing today; Love, the Star, is on the way.

Angels announce with shouts of mirth him who brings new life to earth. Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming. People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

*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.

PostLude on 'Huron Carol' Roberta Rowland Raybold

*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	Quentin Cash	Martha Hale	Norma Saunders
Van Askew	Richard Clayton	Cindy Jennings	Mabel Wilbanks
Carolyn Broady	Summer Dorsey	Doris Kerlin	Brad Wilkinson
Annelle Burch	Howard Dunham	Lurlene Perry	Vivian Wilson
Joe Byers	Margaret Grainger	Claudia Rhodes	



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