



Central Presbyterian Church

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December 22, 2024
4th Sunday of Advent

Welcome

Announcements

Please take a quiet moment to prepare your heart for worship.

Prelude

Prayer of Preparation *(for your personal use, during Prelude)*

*Lord, would You bring Your strength and peace to Your people!
Would Your presence be felt by all who seek You in a powerful way
in this Advent season. Turn the hearts of mankind towards You.
We pray that the lost turn to You and find an unshakable peace that
nothing else in this world can offer. Amen.*

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

***Call to Worship – From Luke 1**

L: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

P: **for He has looked with favor on the lowly state of His servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed,**

L: for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is His name.

P: **Indeed, His mercy is for those who fear Him from generation to generation.**

L: He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

P: **He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly.**

L: He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

P: **He has come to the aid of His child Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, according to the promise He made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.**

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Soon we will celebrate the Prince of Peace, but we are not always a people at peace. Nation rises up against nation, and communities rise up against communities. The fellowship of humanity is disrupted often by greed and a lust for power, and too often, we communicate with one another with an assumption that we are right and they are wrong. We confess Lord that we have not been able to build a world of peace and that we are apparently incapable of doing so. Lord, forgive us and empower us by Your grace to work towards Your peaceable kingdom, where swords will be beaten into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks. Amen.

(Time of silence for personal reflection)

Assurance of Pardon

The Peace

L: Peace be with you.

P: And also with you.

*Gloria Patri *“Glory Be to the Father”*

PH #579

Chancel Choir

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Lighting of Advent Wreath (the Candle of Peace)

The Davis Family

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:39-55

Sermon Text

Micah 5:2-5a

Sermon

“Bethlehem Morning!”

Pastor Ryan

*Hymn *“Angels We have Heard on High”*

PH #23

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Affirmation of Faith – –“Advent Statement of Faith”*

We are an Advent people, a people of hope. For us, Advent is a time of waiting, and so we wait. We wait for the coming of the One who is the fulfillment of God’s promise, the fulfillment of hope the declaration that we have been redeemed. Even so, we are not a naïve people. We know that the world in which we live will continue to be filled with pain and sorrow. We know

that hatred and violence will continue to exist. We know that death and separation will continue to be a part of our lives. But because we are an Advent people, we know that none of these things will win in the end. The Holy One is coming, to make holy once again all that was, is, and ever will be. And in our waiting and our hoping, we work and worship, pray and play, in all things hoping that peace, love and joy will reign in our lives and in our world, now and forever. Amen

Prayers of the People/Pastoral Prayer

L: God of Mercy,

P: hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

Offertory *"Carol for Advent"*

***Doxology**

PH #591

Prayer of Thanksgiving

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***Hymn** *"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"*

PH #38

***Charge and Blessing**

Postlude

Please be seated for the Postlude.

Worship Leader: Pastor Ryan Edgecombe

Greeter/Usher: Coleen Janssen

Liturgist: Dan Stephenson

Pianist/Organist: Emma Lou Denton

Rich Ford

Julia Territo

Special Offertory Music: Bethany Edgecombe

Sally Schafer

Julia Territo

***Please stand, if able** CCLI License #2716138

Hymnals: PH-blue hard cover; Red-red hard cover; SF-small blue soft cover

*Call to Confession, Assurance of Pardon, and Prayer of Illumination taken from *"The Presbyterian Outlook."* Prayer of Confession by Pastor Ryan

**Advent Affirmation of Faith by Rev. Rebecca Harrison