



The Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ December 20, 2020

Prelude

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming arr. Jason W. Krug

God Calls Us to Worship & Welcomes Us

Micah 5:2, 4-5

³But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose coming forth is from of old,
from ancient days.

⁴And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth.

⁵And he shall be their peace.

Confessing Our Sin to God

Our holy and upright God, we come together today to seek your presence, to find consolation in being your flock shepherded by your great strength. And yet, in our sin, nearness to you means great danger and unbounded fear, for your eyes are too pure to gaze upon evil such as ours. Adam's guilt is ours, having been reckoned to all mankind, and in our corruption we have added to that wretched foundation countless wrongs of our own making, and these in thought, word, and deed. What hope is there for sinners like us?

We praise you for establishing Jesus Christ as our peace, the source of complete reconciliation with you. Our hearts are overjoyed to know that the child born in Bethlehem was sent into the world to redeem us. And even as hope first dawned in the coming of your Son, so hope shines brightest of all because of the death of our Savior, for by the cross he was made sin for us, bearing our curse and taking away our iniquity. What limitless mercy and undeserved love you have shown us!

And so, gracious Father, grant our souls rest and confidence in drawing near to you, for the glory of your Son, who ever lives and reigns at your right hand. Make us a people of joy, delighting in every privilege we have through our Redeemer. And conform us more and more to Christ's likeness by your Holy Spirit, that the sin that has been forgiven might also be forever vanquished from our lives. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

God Welcomes Us & Greet Us

* Praising God in Song

Good Christian Men, Rejoice

1. Good Chris-tian men, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 2. Good Chris-tian men, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 3. Good Chris-tian men, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

earth and heav'n be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
 He hath o - pened heav - en's door, and man is bless - ed ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Medieval Latin carol
 tr. John Mason Neale, 1853; alt.
 alt. 1961

IN DULCI JUBILO 6.6.7.7.8.5.5.
 German melody, 14th cent.
 arr. W.D., 1918

Presenting & Dedicating Our Offerings to the Lord

Voice

Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures

7 here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye heav'n-ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son, and

15 Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

God Speaks through His Word

Luke 1:57-80

⁵⁷Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. ⁵⁸And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. ⁵⁹And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, ⁶⁰but his mother answered, "No; he shall be called John." ⁶¹And they said to her, "None of your relatives is called by this name." ⁶²And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. ⁶³And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And they all wondered. ⁶⁴And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. ⁶⁵And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea, ⁶⁶and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, "What then will this child be?" For the hand of the Lord was with him.

⁶⁷And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,

⁶⁸"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has visited and redeemed his people
⁶⁹and has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David,
⁷⁰as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
⁷¹that we should be saved from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us;
⁷²to show the mercy promised to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant,
⁷³the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us
⁷⁴that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,
might serve him without fear,
⁷⁵in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.
⁷⁶And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
⁷⁷to give knowledge of salvation to his people

in the forgiveness of their sins,
⁷⁸because of the tender mercy of our God,
whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high
⁷⁹to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

80And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

“The Music of Mercy, pt. 2”

December 20, 2020

Review: The songs of praise which precede Christ’s birth celebrate God’s mercy.

~ In his mercy, God attends to us in our misery, which is a consequence of sin ~

A mercy that nurtures growing faith and deepening contemplation.

A mercy that delivers from every enemy.

A mercy that imparts purpose.

A mercy that restores peace with God by the forgiveness of sins.

Jesus Invites Us to His Table

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Jesus Calls on Us to Partake Worthily

1 Corinthians 11:27-29

Receiving the Bread & Cup in Faith

Luke 22:19-20 & Matthew 26:28

1. What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep - ing?
 2. Why lies he in such mean es - tate, where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3. So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him;

Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris - tians, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 the King of kings sal - va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing:
 Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you:
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by:

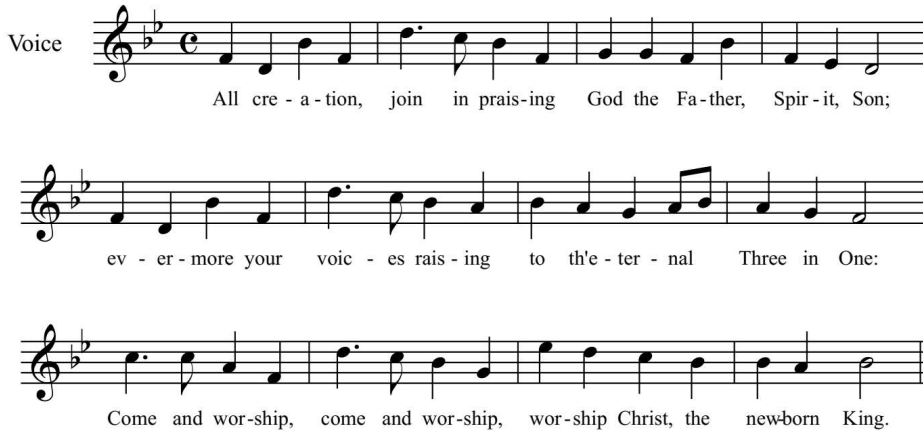
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y.
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y.
 joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y.

Traditional English carol
 adapt. William C. Dix, ca. 1865

GREENSLEEVES 8.7.8.7.ref.
 English melody, 16th cent.

* God Dismisses Us with His Blessing

Voice



All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son;
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to th'e - ter - nal Three in One:
Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the newborn King.

* Those who are able, please stand



Announcements

- After morning worship, enjoy fellowship in the Fellowship Hall, and then please join us at 11:20 for Sunday School. The Adult Class (taught by Elise van der Jagt) meets in the Fellowship Hall, the Elementary Class (taught by Amy Pisani) meets in Rm 102, the Middle School Class (taught by Kurt Schumacher) in Rm 209, and the High School Class (taught by Eric Runion) in Rm 300. Masks are needed while moving around the building, but may be removed when seated in the classrooms.
- The **Thank Offering** from our congregation now totals \$7400, and \$1500 was raised for **Barnabas Aid** as part of our participation in the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. What an amazing response on your part! Praise the Lord for these generous contributions!
- The **Wednesday Evening Devotional** will be off the next two weeks, resuming on January 6th.
- Please join us for our in-person **Christmas Service** tonight at 6 PM. The service will be live-streamed on our YouTube channel.
- Pastor Kisler is on vacation next week. Eric Walter, Grace PCA intern, will preach on the 27th.
- Helping with this morning's service are: Jonathan Runion (musician), Dan Lash (usher), Richard Backus (sound) and Tony Pisani (video).

www.cornerstonepresbyterian.org ~ (585) 865-3917

Email: info@cornerstonepresbyterian.org ~ Morning service available onsite at FM 91.9

Cornerstone Presbyterian Church is a congregation of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church

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