



Second Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2020
Trinity Presbyterian Church,
Topeka, KS

GATHERING

We gather as the Body of Christ to encounter God in worship

Prelude

"Veni, Veni, Emmanuel"
Anonymous, 14th century
Brass Quintet

CENTERING WORDS

When has God disappointed you? When has God exceeded your expectations?

Welcome and Announcements

Carol Shannahan

Lighting of the Candle of Love

Prayer of the Day

Unison

Loving God, you sent your prophet John to prepare your way among us, to call us to repentance and make our pathways straight. Strengthen us to live lives of steadfast love and faithfulness as we await the Messiah's return, that all may see your reign of peace through your just and gracious rule. Amen.

Musical Interlude

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"
arr. Charles Callahan
Brad Stipcak, organ

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

Congregation

Emmanuel, God with us, we confess how hard it is for us to wait. Like Zechariah, we have a hard time waiting on you, and we lose hope so quickly when it seems as though you aren't answering our prayers in the ways we hope. Sometimes your timing is mysterious. Sometimes you answer our longings and our prayers in ways we have a hard time comprehending. Take away all the barriers in our lives that keep us from being able to hear you, to know you, and to love you with all our hearts. And give us ears to hear your gentle voice saying, "Be not afraid." Amen.
(time for silent prayer)

Assurance of Forgiveness

Thanks be to God.

THE WORD

The Word of God in scripture and interpreted in proclamation is the center of worship.

Prayer of Illumination

First Lesson

Luke 1: 5-25

5 During the rule of King Herod of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah. His wife Elizabeth was a descendant of Aaron. **6** They were both righteous before God, blameless in their observance of all the Lord's commandments and regulations. **7** They had no children because Elizabeth was unable to become pregnant and they both were very old. **8** One day Zechariah was serving as a priest before God because his priestly division was on duty. **9** Following the customs of priestly service, he was chosen by lottery to go into the Lord's sanctuary and burn incense. **10** All the people who gathered to worship were praying outside during this hour of incense offering. **11** An angel from the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense. **12** When Zechariah saw the angel, he was startled and overcome with fear.

13 The angel said, "Don't be afraid, Zechariah. Your prayers have been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will give birth to your son and you must name him John. **14** He will be a joy and delight to you, and many people will rejoice at his birth, **15** for he will be great in the Lord's eyes. He must not drink wine and liquor. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before his birth. **16** He will bring many Israelites back to the Lord their God. **17** He will go forth before the Lord, equipped with the spirit and power of Elijah. He will turn the hearts of fathers[a] back to their children, and he will turn the disobedient to righteous patterns of thinking. He will make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

18 Zechariah said to the angel, “How can I be sure of this? My wife and I are very old.”

19 The angel replied, “I am Gabriel. I stand in God’s presence. I was sent to speak to you and to bring this good news to you. **20** Know this: What I have spoken will come true at the proper time. But because you didn’t believe, you will remain silent, unable to speak until the day when these things happen.”

21 Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they wondered why he was in the sanctuary for such a long time. **22** When he came out, he was unable to speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he gestured to them and couldn’t speak. **23** When he completed the days of his priestly service, he returned home. **24** Afterward, his wife Elizabeth became pregnant. She kept to herself for five months, saying, **25** “This is the Lord’s doing. He has shown his favor to me by removing my disgrace among other people.”

Thanks be to God

Special Music

"Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme" (BWV 140)
J.S. Bach/arr. Lendt
Brass Quintet

Second Lesson

Mark 1: 1-8

1 The beginning of the good news about Jesus Christ, God’s Son, **2** happened just as it was written about in the prophecy of Isaiah:

Look, I am sending my messenger before you.

He will prepare your way, a voice shouting in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way for the Lord; make his paths straight.”

4 John the Baptist was in the wilderness calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins. **5** Everyone in Judea and all the people of Jerusalem went out to the Jordan River and were being baptized by John as they confessed their sins. **6** John wore clothes made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. **7** He announced, “One stronger than I am is coming after me. I’m not even worthy to bend over and loosen the strap of his sandals. **8** I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

“The Fear of Disappointment”
Rev. Meredith Kemp-Pappan

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

We respond to the Word of God in prayer and by offering ourselves and our Substance.

Prayers of the People

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

"The First Noel"
arr. Gordon Young
Brad Stipcak, organ

*Prayer of Dedication

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

This morning we will celebrate communion as we worship remotely. If you wish to partake of this sacrament, please have elements (juice, bread, etc.) ready.

Invitation to the Table

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

At the invitation of the presider, you may partake of the bread and cup.

Communion Music

"Jesus, What a Friend for Sinners"
arr. Chris Rice
Jaron Marcus, piano

Prayer After Communion

~~~SENDING FORTH~~~

*Worship Equips Us To Go Forth To Serve God In The World.*

Congregational Hymn

“When Old Zechariah Saw What God had Done”

When old Zechariah saw what God had done,  
He knew that the promised Messiah would come.  
His speech was restored and his friends were amazed;  
Recalling his words, we now offer God praise:

You keep what you promise and so we are blest;  
In mercy you saved us when we were oppressed.  
As Abraham heard you, we've heard your call too;  
We're saved, so we'll serve you in all that we do.

We thank you, O God, that John pointed the way;  
In Jesus our Lord now, we've seen your new day.  
In Christ, the dawn brightens and death's shadows cease;  
We'll live in your light and be guided in peace.

\*Charge and Blessing

\*Postlude

*"Watchman, Tell us of the Night" – Lowell  
Mason/Arr. P. Becker  
Brass Quintet*

Participating in Worship Leadership:

Rev. Meredith Kemp-Pappan, Presider  
Rev. Carol Shannahan, Liturgist  
Brad Stipcak, Dir. Of Music  
Jaron Marcus, Piano  
Brass Quintet: Michael Sturm  
Phil Becker  
Quentin Mallette  
Thomas Pi  
Trevon Waddell  
Anton Ahrens, Audio/Visual

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