

Welcome to
PALMA CEIA
Presbyterian Church



Traditional Service

Sunday, December 22, 2024 | 8:30 & 11:00 AM

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

GATHERING

Prelude: “O Come All Ye Faithful”
“Carol Of The Bells”
Trinity Handbell Choir

arr. Mallory
arr. Sherman

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Congregational Concerns and Joys

Introit: “Away In a Manger”

arr. Rutter

Call To Worship: (1 John 4:17)

L: On the fourth Sunday in Advent the church around the world gathers looking and listening for love.

P: The scriptures promise that God is bringing forth love, and that we see that best in Jesus Christ, born in Bethlehem. (The Love candle is lit).

L: “Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

P: So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in them.”

All: Come Lord Jesus, come with love! We are watching and waiting for you.

Invocation

Hymn #31: “Hark The Herald Angels Sing”

Prayer of Confession and Intercession: Holy God, you promised to do great things for us, yet so often we do not trust you. You extend your mercy to us. You lift up the humble. You fill the hungry with good things, and yet so frequently we still do not trust you. Forgive us, and help us to trust in the promises you have given us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. (moments for silent prayer...) Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Greeting One Another in the Peace of Jesus Christ

Act of Praise: Hymn #27: “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child” (verse 1)

*Gentle Mary laid her Child Lowly in a manger;
There He lay, the undefiled, To the world a stranger:
Such a Babe in such a place, Can He be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His favor.*

Trinity Handbells: “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”

arr. Dobrinski

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:39-55

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women,

and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

⁴⁶ And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.

Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name;

⁵⁰ indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

Instrument Solo: “I Saw Three Ships”
Terry Moore

Traditional carol, arr. Gurley

The Sacrament of Baptism (11:00 AM) Ashby King Little, son of Ryan & Emily Little

Time with the Children: Children of all ages are invited to the chancel steps. As the children come forward the congregation can join in singing the 2nd verse of hymn #27 “*Gentle Mary*” and the 3rd verse as they leave. Following the Children’s Message, children Pre-K3-1st grade may be accompanied by a parent/guardian to the Godly Play room. Children 2nd grade and older are invited to remain in the sanctuary. There is also a staffed nursery on the first floor of Eastminster.

*2 Angels sang about His birth; Wise men sought and found Him;
Heaven’s star shone brightly forth, Glory all around Him:
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, Heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ringing.*

*3 Gentle Mary laid her Child Lowly in a manger;
He is still the undefiled, But no more a stranger:
Son of God, of humble birth, Beautiful the story;
Praise His name in all the earth, Hail the King of glory!*

Mission Celebration

Worship with Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: “O Magnum Mysterium”

Translation from the Latin: The nativity poem in these lyrics is at least 1,000 years old.

“O great mystery and admirable Sacrament.

*How wonderful that here gazing on the Sacrament
we see the presence of The Lord Christ,
even as the animals in the manger gazed upon the Lord
born to the Blessed Virgin. Alleluia!”*

Lauridsen

Scripture Lesson: Galatians 4:4-5

⁴But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. John T. DeBevoise

Preparation For Prayer: “Love’s Pure Light”

Arr. Hagenerg

Prayer of Thanksgiving and The 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.

Declaration of Faith: The Nicene Creed

(An ancient creed of the Church dating from 325 AD)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

SENDING

Hymn #556: "The First Nowell" (Verses 1-3)

Charge and Benediction

Go forth knowing that you are loved by God
Go forth leading a life that is a sign of God's love.
May God's love be the source of your joy, hope and peace.
And may God guide your steps toward Christmas.
Amen.

Benediction Response: "Rejoice, Rejoice Emmanuel"

Veni Emmanuel

Postlude: "Good Christian Friends Rejoice"

Held

The flowers in the Chancel on either side of the Poinsettias are dedicated to the glory of God in honor of the baptism of Ashby King Little, and in loving memory of his grandmother, Kirsten Wilson, his great-grandmothers, Berta Wilson and Sara Anderson, and his great aunt, Marianna Rush.

Worship Participants:

Pastors: Reverends John DeBevoise, John Reiter, and Kenny Hubbell; Nancy Callahan, Music Director; Chancel Choir; Trinity Handbell Choir, Bonnie Givens & Jeff Traster, Co-Directors; Terry Moore, Acoustic Guitar; Allison Kelly & Anna Shuford, Children's Ministry; Susan Peacock, Chief Usher; Bert Chamorro, Beadle; Beth DeBevoise & Scott Wilson, Livestreamers.