

IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

December 20, 2020

Fourth Sunday in Advent, Year B

PRELUDE

“Andante Cantabile”

Joyce Harris

By J. S. Bach and C. Gounod,

WELCOME

LET US PREPARE OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

LEADER: As we gather around the advent wreath today,
we rejoice that
Christmas is a time of prayer,
and of open hearts when we sing songs of joy.
Christmas is a time of worship-
the moment when the busiest of us pause in wonder.
Christmas happens when God comes to us
in love through Jesus Christ, Immanuel
and fills us with love for all human kind.

We light this candle to proclaim the coming
of the light of the world.
With the coming of this light, there is love,
Such great love helps us to love God and one another.

ADVENT WREATH #148CH “O Come, Let Us Adore Him” (Refrain)

LEADER: O Holy One, we thank you
that Jesus showed love to everyone-
babies and children, old people and young,
sick people and those who are strong,
rich people and those who are poor.
Come to us in this Advent Season,
And give us love for all people. Amen

CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: My soul magnifies the Lord.

My spirit rejoices in God my savior.

PEOPLE: **For the Mighty One has done great things,
And holy is God’s name.**

GATHERING PRAYER

**Mighty God,
your faithfulness is magnified in the coming of your Son,
in the long-awaited birth of the promised Messiah.
May we proclaim your greatness
as we rejoice in our Savior,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

OPENING HYMN #131 “It Came upon the Midnight Clear”

*It came upon a midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold;
“Peace on the earth, good will to all, great news of joy we bring.”
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.*

*Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats o’er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend with hovering wing,
And ever o’er its babel sounds the blessed angels sing.*

PASTORAL PRAYER

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**

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 1: 18-25 and Luke 1: 26-28

Matthew 1:18-25

18 Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. 20 But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

22 All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 23 “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” 24 When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, 25 but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Luke 1:26-28

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.”

SERMON

“Immanuel in the Midst of a Pandemic”

Rev. Merlyn Lawrence

HYMN #160

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”
(Jesus the Light of the World)

*Hark! the herald angels sing, Jesus the light of the world;
Glory to the Christ child bring, Jesus the light of the world.*

Refrain

*We will follow the light, beautiful light,
Come where the dew drops of mercy are bright,
Shine all around us by day and by night,
Jesus the light of the world*

*Christ by highest heaven adored, Jesus the light of the world;
Christ the everlasting Word, Jesus the light of the world.*

Refrain

*We will follow the light, beautiful light,
Come where the dew drops of mercy are bright,
Shine all around us by day and by night,
Jesus the light of the world*

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory:

“The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy”
A West Indian Carol, arr. by John Barnard

Prayer of Dedication

**Holy God, your love is magnified in the gift of your Son,
whom you so freely share with us.
Bless these gifts that we offer
to lift up the lowly and fill the hungry
in your coming reign of justice and peace;
in Christ's name. Amen.**

HYMN REFRAIN #148CH "O Come, Let Us Adore Him"

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Hallelujah Chorus"
From the Oratorio "Messiah"
by George Frederick Handel, arr. by Hans-Gunter Heumann

Special Thanks to All the Participants in Today's Service

<i>Joyce Harris</i>	<i>Organist/ Pianist</i>
<i>Terry Jones</i>	<i>Pianist</i>
<i>Dr. Oliver Lawrence</i>	<i>Videographer</i>
<i>Rev. Merlyn Lawrence</i>	<i>Senior Pastor</i>

Christmas Poinsettias



*In Memory
Or
In Honor*

Ulysses Grantham by Juanita Grantham

Winnie Jones by Juanita Grantham

Alma M. Jones by Mike and Kate Jones

Marion Thomas Jones by Terry Jones

Zoe Behling by Jeff Behling

Jim Dudeck by Andy Dudeck

Bob and Barb Linos by John and Joyce Davis

Marty and Shirley Davis by John and Joyce Davis

Don Heller by Nelda Heller

Donna Heller by Nelda Heller

Military by David and Ginger Graves

Loved Ones by Marge Varga

Ralph and Donna Kuhn by John and Carole Rodriguez

Mark Randall Davis by Joyce Davis

Sebenste Family by Cassandra Browning