



THE WORSHIP OF GOD

4th Sunday of Advent | December 20, 2020

PRELUDE *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came* arr. Fred Gramann
SPC Handbell Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP/LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Bob & Nancy Gorman, liturgists

*(All speak words in **boldface**.)*

The Holy One of joy is coming!

How will we prepare the way?

We will light this candle and remember:

God's joy fills the hungry with good things. ☩

Come, Lord Jesus, be born in us, we pray. Amen.

ADVENT HYMN *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* VENI EMMANUEL

Molly Frederick, Susan Pearce, Ken Curry, Chad Hammer, vocal quartet;

Lynn Auman, violin

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,

that mourns in lonely exile here

until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O Come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;

disperse the gloomy clouds of night,

and death's dark shadows put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

TEXT: Latin prose, pre-9th cent.; trans. composite. TUNE: Plainsong; adapt. Thomas Helmore, 1852 P.D.

PRAYER OF PRAISE AND CONFESSION

God of the Christ child,

holy is your name.

You come in many forms. In the good news

to the oppressed, the brokenhearted, the prisoners and captives.

You come in the times this world is turned around
and the humble **are lifted up,**
the starving **are satisfied,**
the weak **are made strong.**

You come in us—in all people—who know firsthand,
the saving power and restoring justice in your word.

From generation to generation:
you have looked on us with favor
even though we have failed you;
you have called us blessed
despite our harmful ways;
you have kept your word
though we have let you down.

**Forgive us, Lord. Help us return our focus to you as we wait expectantly.
Guide our work for justice in our homes, neighborhoods, and world.**

(Silent confession)

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Return to the Lord your God, for God is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love. Turn toward your God in the confidence that, through Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

Alleluia! Holy is your name. Amen.

RESPONSE OF PRAISE *You've Given Us Yourself, Your Grace* GOD REST YOU MERRY

Sue Anderson, Alberta Gisel, Wayne Tillman, Ken Curry, vocal quartet

***You've given us yourself, your grace, through Jesus Christ your Son;
to help you heal this broken world, by faith, in hope, through love;
to dream new ways that are just and turn this world around.***

Glory be, glory be to you we sing, God most high!

Glory be to you we sing, O God most high!

TEXT: R.W. TUNE: English 18th C. P.D.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:26-37

ANTHEM

No Wind at the Window

arr. Blake R. Hanson

No wind at the window, no knock on the door; no light from the lamp stand, no foot on the floor; no dream born of tiredness, no ghost raised by fear: just an angel and a woman and a voice in her ear.

O Mary, O Mary, don't hide from my face. Be glad that you're favored and filled with God's grace. The time for redeeming the world has begun, and you are requested to mother God's Son."

"This child must be born that the kingdom might come: salvation for many, destruction for some; both end and beginning, both message and sign; both victor and victim, both yours and divine."

No payment was promised, no promises made; no wedding was dated, no blueprint displayed. Yet Mary, consenting to what none could guess, replied with conviction, "Tell God I say, Yes."

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SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:39-56

SERMON

"Singing Joy into the World"

Rev. Laura Viau

SCRIPTURAL AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Magnificat, Luke 1:46-54

(Please go to the last two pages of this worship bulletin. If you have a home copy of the, Glory to God: Presbyterian Hymnal, please turn to page 100.)

Gail Thomas, Laura Viau, Wayne Tillman, Ken Curry, vocal quartet

PRAYER FOR THE COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD

(Please emphasize the highlighted words.)

O Holy One of love, your love is inclusive and saves
and that has power to turn this world around.

.....

O Holy One of peace, your peace shows mercy on each generation
and that has power to turn this world around.

.....

O Holy One of hope, your hope strengthens and raises up the lowly
and that has power to turn this world around.

.....

O Holy One of joy, your joy fills the hungry with good things
and that has power to turn *this* world around.

.....

... trusting that you will bring forth a harvest of joy,
and that has power to turn *this world* around.

.....

... and you bear us your own son.
And that has power to turn *this world around*.

HYMN

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

VALET WILL ICE DIR GEBEN

***O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, Lord most holy, a lamp within my breast,
to do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.
You come, O Lord, with gladness, in mercy and goodwill,
to bring an end to sadness and bid our fears be still.
In patient expectation we live for that great day
when your renewed creation your glory shall display.***

TEXT: Paul Gerhardt, 1653; trans. Catherine Winkworth and others, 1863, alt. TUNE: Melchior Teschner, 1614 P.D.

BENEDICTION AND CHARGE

CLOSING RESPONSE

People, Look East

BESANÇON

Vicki Chadwick, Lynn Auman, Wayne Tillman, Ken Curry, vocal quartet;
Jon-Jon Braxton, acolyte

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

TEXT: Eleanor Farjeon, 1928, alt. MUSIC: French folk melody. Text © 1960 David Higham Associates, Ltd. Music Harm. © 1928 Oxford University Press
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100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

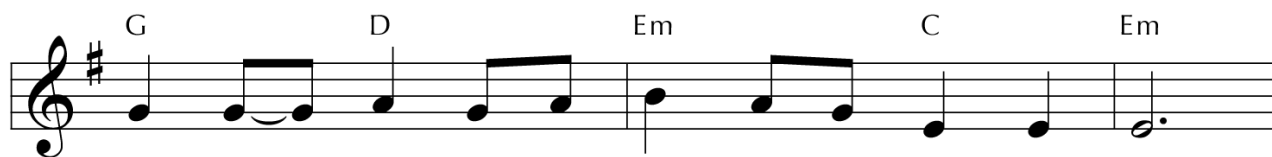
Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



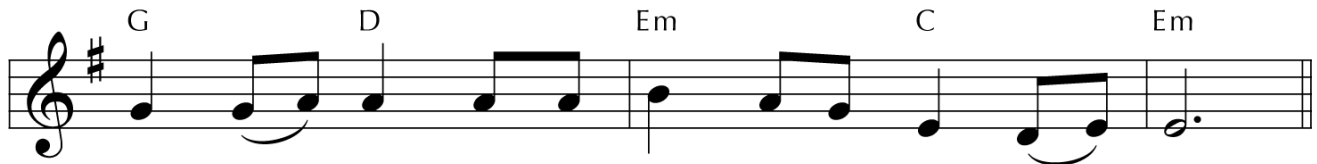
won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

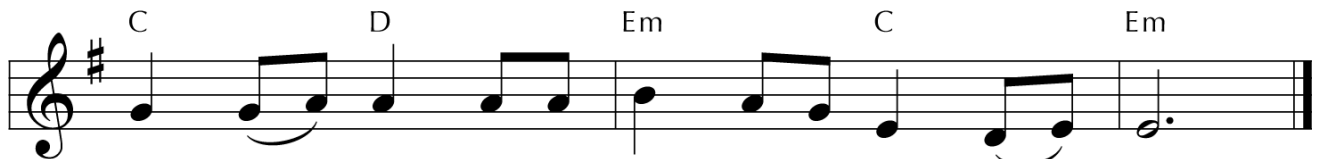
Refrain



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the



fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the



dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

Rev. Laura Viau, Interim Pastor (laurabviau@gmail.com)

Randy Warner, Liturgy and Music Associate and Accompanist;
Kathy Sasso, Church Secretary; **Linda Rowell**, Church Treasurer;
Joyce Winkler, Qualified Ruling Elder; **Crystal Braxton**, Nursery;
Hery Ramambasoa, Regional Liaison for Southeast Asia and the Pacific



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PLEASE REMEMBER THE CHURCH IN YOUR WILL. ☺