

LARGE PRINT

Worship Celebration

Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023 + 9 AM

We Gather as God's Children

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645

Johann Sebastian Bach

+ Call to Worship

Our world is filled with fear, foreboding, exclusion, and desolation.

And yet we are invited to lift up our heads.

Signs appear all around us, whispering to give up on hope.

And yet we are invited to come and see.

Many places, outside and within, have been laid to waste.

And yet we are invited, for redemption draws near.

We have wandered far and wide, longing for peace.

And yet we are always invited to come home.

+ Hymn

In the Bleak Midwinter

UMH 221

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Choral Introduction *Preparing Our Hearts* Ruth Elaine Schram

Today we light two candles,
remembering that God has invited and accepted us all.

***We respond and accept God's invitation
during this holy season of Advent.***

As we prepare our hearts and minds
for the coming of Jesus this Christmas,

***May we share in God's generosity
and invite all people to share in God's love.***

Choral Response

Preparing Our Hearts

Ruth Elaine Schram

We Grow in God's Word

Leader: With disciples of every time and place,
let us listen for the word of God among us.

People: *Our ears and hearts are open.*

First Lesson — John 1.9-14 (NRSVUE)

⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Second Lesson — Luke 2.1-21 (NRSVUE)

2 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

⁸Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord

stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, ¹⁹ and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

²¹ When the eighth day came, it was time to circumcise the child, and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rejected and Uninvited

Hymn

What Child is This

UMH 219

Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer

Opportunities for Ministry and

Invitation to Give Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Anthem

For Unto Us a Child is Born

Josh Kraybill

Doxology *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (v. 6 and refrain) UMH 211

***O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer,
our spirits by thy justice here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.***

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Prayer of Thanksgiving

***Lord, we give you thanks that in the coming of Christ
your steadfast love and faithfulness have met
and your righteousness and peace have kissed
May the gifts we offer this day lift up those in need
and prepare the way of your salvation.
Amen.***

We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

+ Hymn *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* UMH 218

+ Benediction

Postlude *Hallelujah* from ***Messiah*** George Frideric Handel
arr. Josh Kraybill

***Our service of worship is ended.
Our worship through service now begins.***

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