

Welcome and Announcements: December 13, 2020 (Pre-recording)

Prelude: **Ave Maria* – Jacques Arcadelt

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GATHERING AROUND GOD’S WORD

Advent Candlelighting – Vicki Neeley

Reading: Genesis 1:9-13, The Message

God spoke: “Separate! Water-beneath-Heaven, gather into one place; Land, appear!”

And there it was.

God named the land Earth. God named the pooled water Ocean. God saw that it was good.

God spoke: “Earth, green up! Grow all varieties of seed-bearing plants, Every sort of fruit-bearing tree.”

And there it was.

Earth produced green seed-bearing plants, all varieties, And fruit-bearing trees of all sorts. God saw that it was good.

It was evening, it was morning— Day Three.

Today we light the candles of Hope, Peace, and Love.

We light the candle of hope, bringing hope with us. We light the candle of peace, bringing peace with us. We light this candle of love, its brightness so similar to the sun which guides us by day, and we are reminded that all of creation is good: the plants, the ground, the rivers, the oceans, and that we are to love and care for the earth as we love and care for each other. Amen.

Opening Hymn: *Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*

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.

2. 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!

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GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture: Isaiah 61:1-11; Luke 1:46-55

The Good News of Deliverance – Isaiah 61: 1-11

61 The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³ to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
⁴ They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.
⁵ Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks,
foreigners shall till your land and dress your vines;
⁶ but you shall be called priests of the LORD,
you shall be named ministers of our God;
you shall enjoy the wealth of the nations,
and in their riches you shall glory.
⁷ Because their shame was double,
and dishonor was proclaimed as their lot,
therefore they shall possess a double portion;
everlasting joy shall be theirs.
⁸ For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
⁹ Their descendants shall be known among the nations,

and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

Mary's Song of Praise: Luke 1: 46-55

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 lowliness 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 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 thoughts 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 helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

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

Sermon: Love: Calling it for “The Good”

Rev. Kerra English

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Prayers of the People 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.

Offering

Response: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.

Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”

Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;

With the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Refrain:

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!” Amen.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing. As in The Presbyterian Hymnal, © 1990 Westminster John Knox Press. Words: Charles Wesley, 1739; alt. Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840, arr. William Hayman Cummings, 1855. Used by permission. CCLI #[20516410](#) Size A, Streaming #[20516427](#) Size A.

SENDING US OUT TO BE GOD’S WORD IN THE WORLD

Closing Hymn: *People, Look East*

1. People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the guest is on the way.

2. 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 east and sing today:
Love the Lord is on the way.

People, Look East, as in The Presbyterian Hymnal, © 1990 Westminster John Knox Press. Words: Elanor Farjeon, as in *Oxford Book of Carols*, 1964. Music: French folk melody, harm. Martin Shaw. Used by permission. CCLI #[20516410](#) Size A, Streaming #[20516427](#) Size A.

Charge and Benediction (Based on Psalm 24)

The earth belongs to God.

All that's in it belongs to God.

The mountains, the deserts, the cities, the farmland.

The oceans, the rivers, the sky.

Who shall stand tall in this holy place?

Those who have clean hands and pure hearts.

So - speak the truth. Lift up your souls to what is good.

And receive God's magnificent blessing.

Breathe in the air. Give thanks for clean water. Eat what God provides.

Such is the company of those who seek God face to face. Amen.

Postlude: **Opening Voluntary* – Scotson Clark

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