

Germonds Presbyterian Church

New City, New York 10956

*A Service of
Lessons and Carols*

“God of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love”

December 20, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:30 a.m.

Prelude

Joseph dearest, Joseph mine

Pat Singer

Preparation for worship

"Christmas is not a date. It is a state of mind." – *Mary Ellen Chase*

Welcome & Life in the Church

Choral Introit

Soon and Very Soon

Germonds Church Choir

Call to Worship

Light the lamps, prepare the room, God is coming to us!

Make our hearts and spirits ready to receive God's most gracious gift, God's Son, Jesus Christ.

Push the darkness away. The light is truly coming!

May God's light shine on us, in us and through us that God's glory may be seen.

Let us worship God together this day through word and song!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Brandt, Fay, Rios, & Armstrong Families

Bidding Prayer

God we give you great thanks
for this Advent season of waiting
that we have entered into.

For as a Resurrection People,
we know that at the end of this wait
lies Emmanuel –
God with us.

Bless these lessons and carols,
An old tradition done in a new way.
May they be for us
a bold reminder

of the promises of Scripture and the story of the Christ-child.
Amen.

Carol

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Germonds Church Choir

Scripture Lesson One

Patrick Lochan

Isaiah 11: 1–3a; 4a; 6–9

11:1 A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

2 The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

3 His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;

4 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

5 Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

6 The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,

and a little child shall lead them.

7 The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

8 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

9 They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

Carol

Hosannah

Joyful Noise Choir

Scripture Lesson Two

Velta Upeslācis

Luke 1: 26–35; 38

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."^[a] **29** But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. **30** The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. **31** And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. **32** He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. **33** He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." **34** Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"^[b] **35** The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born^[c] will be holy; he will be called Son of God.

38 Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

Carol

Mary Did You Know?

David Morgans Sanchez, tenor

Scripture Lesson Three

Kris Ramdat

Luke 2: 1; 3–7

2 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.

3 All went to their own towns to be registered. 4 Joseph 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. 5 He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7 And 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 for them in the inn.

Carol

Oh Holy Night

Lynnesha Crump, soprano

Scripture Lesson Four

Brian Redling

Matthew 2: 1–12

2 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men^[a] from the East came to Jerusalem, 2 asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising,^[b] and have come to pay him homage.” 3 When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; 4 and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah^[c] was to be born. 5 They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

6 ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,

are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd[d] my people Israel.””

7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men[e] and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8 Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” 9 When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising,[f] until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw that the star had stopped,[g] they were overwhelmed with joy. 11 On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Carol

Silent Night

DeShaun Gordon-King, flutist

Scripture Lesson Five

Lisa Scagnelli

John 1: 1–14

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life,[a] and the life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.[b]

10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to what was his own,[c] and his own people did not accept him. 12 But to all

who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

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

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

God of our Salvation,

we come to you this Advent morning,
to lift up your name with others around the world.

In the beginning, your creative work began with a word,
and this season, we look to the coming of the Word made flesh.

Like Mary, we ponder these things in our hearts,
and wonder how you could love us so much
as to actually become one of us, one with us.

Thank you for your steadfast presence in our lives!

And yet, even as we prepare our hearts for the fulfillment of love,
we recognize that there are many who are still waiting for fulfillment:

the fulfillment of adequate food and shelter...

the fulfillment of peace and the end of violence...

the fulfillment of reprieve from the fierce grip of grief...

the fulfillment of a restoration of a broken relationship...

the fulfillment of a renewing of heart, mind, or body...

the fulfillment of healing from a chronic illness...

the fulfillment of an end to substance abuse...

Giving God,

give us the courage to do your work in the world

and to share the peace coming to us, breaking into the world.

We pray this day especially,

for those who have lost loved ones in the past year...

for those who struggle with mental illness...

for those who fight alcoholism's onslaught...

for those who will be traveling in the coming days and weeks...

for those who are working this Christmas season:

For those who are not working right now.

for those who will not get to be with family or go home Christmas...

hear us we pray, O God,

Restore us and make your face to shine that we might be saved.

In all that we do and in all that we are,

send your Spirit to send us forward with the purpose of this season

to share the grace we receive with everyone we encounter.

This we pray in the name of your Son, who taught us to pray saying:

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.

Carol

Joy To The World

Germonds Church Choir

Benediction

Choral Benediction

Go to the World

Germonds Church Choir

Postlude

List, the Cherubic Hosts

Pat Singer