

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Christmas Pageant-Fourth Sunday of Advent

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Home is the nicest word there is.

~ Laura Ingalls Wilder

Home is where the heart is.

~ Pliny the Elder

PRELUDE

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

INTROIT

Prepare the Way

Gary Alan Smith

Joyful Noise and Germonds Choirs

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: A voice calls out in the wilderness.

All: It sings of a home for all.

It speaks of justice and peace.

One: We could choose to ignore it.

All: We could drown out that song.

We could choose not to listen.

One: Instead, we come into this space.

All: We let the world grow quiet.

We listen.

One: A voice calls out in the wilderness. Do you hear it?

All: We hear it. In listening, we worship.

One: Let us draw near to God.

OPENING PRAYER

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Fay Family

*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* vs 1, 6, 7 GG: 88

SCRIPTURE: Luke 3:1-16

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Expansive God, We know that the church is your house, and your house has room for everyone. Yet, too often, instead of setting the table for our neighbors, we block the door. Instead of welcoming all, we judge others by our own standards. Instead of sharing our second coat, we hide it in the attic, holding on to fear instead of letting go with love. Remind us that your home is a home for *all*, that truth requires hard work, that truth requires uncomfortable justice. Help us to be bold enough to see it and brave enough to live it. With hope we pray,

(A time of silent confession)

Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

One: Family of faith, God sent prophets like John the Baptist to us because this work is not easy. Helping create a world where all might have a home, and all might be loved, and all might know peace, is an audacious goal. Fortunately for us, when we mess up—when we lose our way or forget our call—we are met with grace. God could not love us any more or any less than God already does.

All: We have the good news:

We are at home with God—forgiven, claimed, and loved. The door is always open for us. Thanks be to God. Amen!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: Hear the teaching of Christ: A new command I give you, that you love one another as I have loved you. The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you!

One: Let us share the peace of Christ with one another in peaceful gestures.

HEARING THE WORD

ANTHEM

Shine, Advent Candle, Shine!

Jean A. Shafferman

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES AND THE WORD

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *The Angel Gabriel Basque Carol* arr. Raymond Howell

MUSICAL OFFERING *The Nativity Song* Anneka Goldberg, soloist

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: **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.

GOING OUT INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

GG: 82

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION *Prepare the Way O Zion*

POSTLUDE

People Look East

Participating in today's music:

Germonds Choir: Meridith Goldberg, Sue Hyatt, Karen Ostertag, Jennie Redling,
Brian Redling, Don Smith, Patty Zollinger, Co Bullen

Joyful Noise Choir: Anneka Goldberg, Temperance Goldberg, Lilli Olori, Saanvi
Pundukare, Sidney Scherer, April Scherer, Harley Rios, Michael Rios, Sierra Lugo

Susan Buffington on piano