

Order of Worship
December 19, 2021, Fourth Sunday of Advent, 10:15 AM



Gathering Music - “Skating”, Jazz Trio

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude - “I Wonder As I Wander / ’Twas In the Moon of Wintertime”, DPC Handbell Choir

● **Call to Worship**

Leader: Isn’t there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about?

People: It isn’t about the brightest lights or the shiniest gifts!

Leader: No, I suppose not. Doesn’t anyone know what Christmas is all about?

People: It isn’t about the biggest tree or the fanciest meals!

Leader: Well then what *IS* Christmas all about?

People: It’s about stopping to see the beauty in the smallest and simplest of gifts.

Leader: Good grief! And what would those be?

People: Hope, peace, joy, and love, all wrapped up in one tiny baby.

Leader: So that’s what Christmas is all about?

People: Yes, Charlie Brown. That’s what Christmas is all about.

All: Let us worship God!

Invocation

● **Opening Hymn** – #123 – It Came Upon The Midnight Clear

Lighting of the Advent Candle – Matt Aris, Daniel Brown, Xander Brown, Ian Brown

In the beauty of this Advent season, we light the candles of hope, peace, and joy.

(Light first 3 candles)

As we near the birth of Christ, we make room in our hearts for the fullness of God’s love.

We lift our heads and rise up high so the glorious king can enter!

We light this candle as a sign of God’s endless love for us.

We light this candle to remember that Christ is our love.

(The fourth candle is lit, and a moment of silence is observed.)

We love because God first loved us.

And the love of God shall be known in every corner of the earth

For the earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it!

Children’s Choir Anthem – “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Children’s Message – Tony Pritchett

Special Music - “O Tannenbaum”, Jazz Trio

Scripture: Micah 5:2-5a, Liturgist - Sara Elizabeth Drummond

*But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace. The Word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God.***

Choir Anthem – “Christmas Time Is Here”

Scripture: Luke 2:8-14

*In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” The Word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God.***

Meditation

Special Music – “What Child Is This”, Jazz Trio

● **Affirmation of Faith**

I never thought it was such a bad little tree. It’s not bad at all, really. Maybe it just needs a little love. We are a people that have been lavished with love by our Heavenly Father. In sending His Son to be born for us, He brought us great joy. Through the resurrection of Jesus, He gives us an everlasting hope, and through the Holy Spirit a peace that surpasses all understanding. And just like that, we are transformed from a scrawny little tree into a magnificent creation that declares the glory and the goodness of God!

Giving and Offertory - “Cradle Song”, DPC Handbell Choir

Pastoral Prayer 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.

● **Closing Hymn** – #119 – “Hark The Herald Angels Sing” *The first verse will be sung by the children's choir. Congregation is invited to join beginning on verse 2.*

● **Benediction**

Postlude – “Linus & Lucy”

The (●) dot in the order of worship invites you to stand as you are able. Text in **bold** indicates unison reading.

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE:

Bruce Dudley, piano

Roy Vogt, bass

Todd London, drums

PLEASE JOIN US



Pastoral Care Team: Chairs - Tina O'Connor and Joy Roark; Members - Lenna Aris, Velma Bartley, Melanie Caskey, Beth Chiles, Ann Cox, Charlene Dodson, Diane Ingram, Grace Lewis, Betty Polk, Jim White, Ruth White, Jill York

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**We warmly welcome all who have come to worship with us today. If you are a guest at Donelson Presbyterian Church, we encourage you to fill out a yellow visitor card which you will find in the pew.