

PRELUDE

◇ A time of quiet preparation

What Child is This/ arr. D. Wyrzten
O Holy Night/ arr. M. Hayes

WORDS OF GREETING

WE CELEBRATE THE COMING OF CHRIST

THE ADVENT CANDLE: PEACE

Tiemann Family

CHORAL INTROIT

PRAYER

***WE PRAISE OUR GOD**

HYMN OF PRAISE 219

All Praise to Thee, Eternal Lord

CHILDREN’S PROGRAM

Luke 1:26-38 (NIV)

THE BIRTH OF JESUS FORETOLD

Cecilia Rutter, Reader

In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

SONG

Ring the Bells

*Ring, ring, ring the bells, ring them loud and clear:
Tell the people everywhere that Jesus Christ is here!*

Lydia Crowther, Reader

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.”

SONG

Who Is this Baby?/ R. Vos

“Who is this baby lying in a manger? Why doesn’t he have a nice, soft bed?” “This baby is Christ Jesus, God come down to save us, The King of kings and Lord of lords –Yet he chose a humble birth: For God’s ways are higher, much higher than our own ways, His wisdom is wiser than the wisest thoughts of men, And God’s love is deeper, deeper than the ocean, Deeper than the distance between heaven and earth.”

“Why were there angels singing to poor shepherds, Why such a star bringing kings from far-off lands?” “This babe is God our Savior who loves both rich and poor, And calls us all to come to him, From throughout the whole wide earth.

For God’s light is stronger, stronger than our darkness, His power is much greater than the terrible power of sin, And God’s love is deeper, deeper than the ocean, Deeper than the distance between heaven and earth.”

Braden Burchfield, Reader

“He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

Brooklyn Burchfield, Reader

“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

Kyra Brandt, Reader

The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

SONG

Go Tell it on the Mountain

*Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain, That Jesus Christ is born!
While shepherds kept their watching O’er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens There shone a holy light.
The shepherds feared and trembled, When lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus That hailed the Savior’s birth.
Down in a lowly manger The humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn.*

Josh Tiemann, Reader

Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail.” “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

***WE EXALT OUR LORD**

WORSHIP SONGS

Leader: You who bring good tidings to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, “Here

is your God!” He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young. Isaiah 40:9, 11 (NIV)

POSTLUDE

Christmastime/ trad. French

WE GREET ONE ANOTHER

WELCOME TO VISITORS

WE SEEK GOD’S FACE

Prayers of God's People

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS

OFFERING/ CHORAL OFFERTORY *The Hills Are Bare at Bethlehem/ S. Boss*

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING *Philippians 2:6-11 (NIV)*

⁶ Jesus Christ, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,
⁷ but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.
⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!
⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,
¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Westminster Shorter Catechism Q. 27

Wherein did Christ's humiliation consist?

Christ's humiliation consisted in his being born, and that in a low condition, made under the law, undergoing the miseries of this life, the wrath of God, and the cursed death of the cross; in being buried, and continuing under the power of death for a time.

SERMON

The Weakness of His Strength
Mysteries of Advent series, Part III
Rev. Thomas E. Nicholas

***WE GO FORTH TO SERVE**

HYMN OF RESPONSE **200**

*WORDS OF PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

It Came upon the Midnight Clear