



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent

“LOVE”

December 19, 2021

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*Due to COVID precautions, we are asking everyone in the congregation to remain masked, and to enjoy singing the hymns and responses.*

### MEDITATION

*From the time you were very little, you've had people who have smiled you into smiling, people who have talked you into talking, sung you into singing, loved you into loving. Rev. Fred Rogers*

PRELUDE: Music for the Christmas Season

The Gainsborough Brass Ensemble

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Jill Edens

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God of Hope and Peace and Joy and Love, be with us.

All: **Surprise us with the grace to trust in you, find you in unexpected places, and live our lives in ways that magnify your Spirit. Amen.**

### \* HYMN: Of Eternal Love Begotten

*Divinum mysterium*

Hymns of Truth & Light (blue hymnal) #129

### \* PRAYER OF CONFESSION and ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Holy One, thank you for the wonderful surprises of life.

All: **Forgive us that we are often so busy tending our little flocks of comforts and distractions that we fail to hear the angels singing your good news. Amen.**

*—silent confession—*

One: Friends, believe the Good News: in Jesus Christ we are a new creation; the God who loved us into being knows us, understands us, and forgives us.

\* SUMMARY OF THE LAW

\* GLORIA

Angels We Have Heard on High

*Gloria*

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply, echo back their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

\* PASSING OF THE PEACE

*Please be seated.*

ANTHEM: Ríu, ríu, chíu

*Anonymous, 16<sup>th</sup> century Spanish*

Chancel Choir; Christian Figueroa, tenor

Ríu, ríu, chíu, la guarda ribera:  
Dios guardó el lobo  
de nuestra cordera.

*Ríu, ríu, chíu\**, the river bank protects it:  
God protected our Lamb [the Virgin Mary]  
from the wolf [the Devil].

El lobo rabioso la quiso morder,  
Mas Dios Poderoso la supo defender;  
Quísola hazer que no pudiese pecar,  
Ni aun original esta Virgen no tuviera.

*The rabid wolf wanted to bite her,  
But Almighty God knew how to defend her;  
He willed to make her unable to sin,  
Even original sin this virgin did not have.*

Este qu'es nascido es El Gran Monarca,  
Cristo Patriarca de carne vestido;  
Hanos redimido con se hazer chiquito,  
Aunqu'era infinito, finito se hiziera.

*The one who is born is the Great Monarch,  
Christ the Patriarch clothed in flesh;  
He has redeemed us by making himself small,  
Though he was infinite he became finite.*

Yo vi mil garçones que andavan cantando,  
Por aquí bolando, haziendo mil sonos,  
Diziendo a gascones Gloria sea en el Cielo,  
Y paz en el suelo ques Jesús nasciera.

*I saw a thousand Angels who were singing,  
Flying all around, chanting in a thousand voices,  
Saying to the shepherds Glory in Heaven,  
And peace on earth for Jesus is born.*

Este viene a dar a los muertos vida,  
Y viene a reparar de todos la caída;  
Es la luz del día aqueste Muçuelo;  
Este es el Cordero que San Juan dixera.

*He comes to give life to the dead,  
He comes to repair the fall of all mankind;  
This Child is the light of day;  
He is the Lamb of whom St. John spoke.*

Pues que ya tenemos lo que deseamos,  
Todos juntos vamos presentes elvemos;  
Todos le daremos nuestra voluntad,  
Pues a se igualar con el hombre viniera.

*Now we have what we desire,  
Let us go together to present him gifts;  
Let us all give him our will,  
For he came as our equal.*

*\* The syllables "Ríu, ríu, chíu" imitate the call of the Kingfisher, a bird thought to inhabit the river bank.*

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING: Presentation of the gift of love. Ann and David Ingram

Scripture: John 1:40-41

Reflection

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Hymn: Love Came Down at Christmas

*Gartan*

*(Music found in blue hymnal, front supplement, #H-2)*

**Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely, love divine;**

**Love was born at Christmas: star and angels gave the sign.**

**Worship we the Godhead, love incarnate, love divine;**

**Worship we our Jesus, but wherewith for sacred sign?**

**Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine;**

**Love to God and neighbor, love for plea and gift and sign.**

Prayer

LESSON: Luke 1:39-55

Rev. Anne Marie Holloway

*Luke writes of the continuing surprises of God, and in the great scriptural tradition, quotes Mary's eloquent understanding of God's will as a canticle.*

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Reader: For the Word of God in scripture, among us, and within us.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON: “Loved into Loving”

Rev. Judy Swahnberg

SOLO: Magnificat (from *The Nativity According to St. Luke*)  
Laurie Stewart Otten, soprano

*Randall Thompson*

PRAYER CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS

Rev. Richard Edens

SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER & OUR 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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING OF OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Invitation

*As the offering plates are passed, please pass and sign the Friendship Register.*

OFFERTORY: In dulci júbilo  
Chancel Choir

*arr. Michael Praetorius*

In dulci júbilo  
nun singet und seid froh,  
Unsers Herzens Wonne  
leit in praesepio  
Und leuchtet als die Sonne.  
Alpha es et O.

*In sweet rejoicing,  
now sing and be glad!  
The delight of our heart  
lies in the manger;  
And shines like the sun.  
He is the Alpha and the Omega.*

\* Doxology

*Cranham*

**What can I offer, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.  
If I were a wise one, I would do my part;  
But what I can, I offer: all my heart.**

\* Dedication of the Offering

**Your goodness overwhelms us. As we rededicate our loves and lives to You,  
we come to offer these gifts of gratitude, in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

\* HYMN: The First Nowell

*The First Nowell*

Hymns of Truth & Light (blue hymnal) #141

\* COMMISSION & BENECTION

*Please be seated during the Postlude.*

POSTLUDE: Gloucestershire Wassail

*arr. Richard Price*

The Gainsborough Brass Ensemble  
John Mahoney & Greg Whitaker, trumpet  
Robert Marlatt, French horn  
Walt Bostian, trombone  
Ken Amis, tuba  
Gary DiPerna, timpani

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Of Eternal Love Begotten” Harm © 1981 Church Pension Fund

## Of Eternal Love Begotten

*Unison*



1. Of e - ter - nal love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be -  
 2. O ye heights of heaven sing prais - es; an - gel hosts sweet  
 3. Christ, to thee with God Cre - a - tor, and O Ho - ly

gan to be, Christ is Al - pha and O - me - ga, he the  
 an - thems sing! And on earth let all the faith - ful now their  
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing and un -

source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that have been,  
 joy - ous car - ols ring, ev - 'ry tongue Christ's name con - fess - ing,  
 wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do - min - ion,

and that fu - ture years shall see, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!  
 count - less voic - es an - swer - ing, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!  
 and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!

WORDS: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (4th century); sts. 1,3, tr. John Mason Neale, 1854, DIVINUM MYSTERIUM and Henry W. Baker, 1859, alt.; st. 2, tr. R. F. Davis, 1906, alt. 87.87.877

MUSIC: Plainsong, Mode V (13th century); harm. C. Winfred Douglas, *The Hymnal*, 1940

Prudentius was a Spanish lawyer and magistrate who became a Christian at age fifty-seven, withdrawing to a monastery for a life of meditation and writing.

Harm. © 1981 Church Pension Fund

1. The first Now-ell the an-gel did say was to  
 2. They look-ed up and saw a star shin-ing  
 3. And by the light of that same star three  
 4. This star drew nigh to the north-west; o'er  
 5. Then en-tered in those wise men three, full

cer-tain poor shep-herds in fields as they lay; in fields where  
 in the east, be-yond them far, and to the  
 wise men came from coun-try far; to seek for a  
 Beth-le-hem it took its rest, and there it  
 rev-erent-ly up-on their knee, and of-fered

they lay keep-ing their sheep, on a cold win-ter's  
 earth it gave great light, and so it con-  
 king was their in-tent, and to fol-low the  
 did both and stay, right o-ver the  
 there, in his pres-ence, their gold and

*Refrain*

night that was so deep.  
 tin-ued both day and night.  
 star wher-ev-er it went. Now-ell, Now-ell, Now-  
 place where Je-sus lay.  
 myrrh and frank-in-cense.

ell, Now-ell, born is the King of Is-ra-el.

WORDS: Traditional English Carol, 17th century  
 MUSIC: Traditional English Melody

THE FIRST NOWELL  
 Irr. w. refrain

A 'Nowell' is an English seasonal shout of joy and greeting. The term is related to the Latin *natalis*, meaning birth or birthday.

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Alto Soloist	Shannon Lebrón
Tenor Soloist	Christian Figueroa
Bass Soloist	Garrett Murphy
Sound Technician	Kenny Goshgarian
Sound Technician	Steven Hopkins

GOD  
IS STILL  
SPEAKING

WE ARE AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION.  
NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE,  
NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE  
ON LIFE'S JOURNEY,  
YOU ARE WELCOME HERE.