A Service of Worship
Presbytery of New Castle
Sunday - December 27, 2020

Welcome
The Rev. Dr. Tracy Keenan

Prelude
Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming
ES IST EIN’ ROS’
Sally Waugaman, organist

Call to Worship
(based on Psalm 148 and Isaiah 9:6)
Voice 1: Praise the Lord! Praise God from the heavens; praise God in the heights!
Voice 2: All the shining stars praise you, O God,
for you commanded and they were created.
Voice 1: Praise God with cymbals and bells, you sun and moon and all creatures
on earth - old and young together!
Voice 2: For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given.
Let everyone praise the name of the Lord.

Hymn
O Little Town of Bethlehem
ST. LOUIS
Alexis Ward, pianist and soloist

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.
Prayer of Confession – *Unison* *(from Book of Common Worship)*

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace and live in the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Be not afraid, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy. God’s grace has appeared for the salvation of all. Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of Christ be with you all.

*And also with you.*

*Please share the peace of Christ with those around you – or text/email/message someone to share the message and gift of Christ’s peace today.*

**Scripture**


**Sermon**

“Christmas Hangover and the Hair of the Dog” The Rev. Dr. Tracy Keenan

**Anthem**

*In the Bleak Midwinter* arr. Brent Edstrom

Raquel Faiello Teare, pianist

**Prayers of Intercession 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.

**Invitation to Give**

*Please donate to your own congregation through online giving or by sending a donation.*

**Hymn**

*Joy to the World* Antioch

Alexis Ward, pianist and soloist

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king; let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Benediction

Postlude

Sheep May Safely Graze

J.S. Bach

Dianne Deming – flute; Ann Whitman – piano

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Leading worship:

Ruling Elder Bob Schminkey – Co-Interim Connectional Presbyter/Stated Clerk
The Rev. Sara Holben – Co-Interim Connectional Presbyter
The Rev. Dr. Tracy Keenan – Missional Presbyter

Photography & Video Editing:

The Rev. Dr. Thomas C. Davis – Interfaith Veterans Workgroup

Music – performed courtesy of:

Sally Waugaman – Music Director, Westminster Presbyterian Church of Rehoboth Beach DE
Raquel Faiello Teare – Adjunct Professor of Piano,
University of Mount Union, Alliance OH
Alexis Ward – Music Director, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Wilmington DE
The Rev. Dianne Deming – Interim Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Milford DE
Ann Whitman – Pianist, First Presbyterian Church, Milford DE

Music: All music performed is in the Public Domain

Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming
Music: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesang 1599; arr. Michael Praetorius, 1609

O Little Town of Bethlehem
Text: Phillips Brooks, 1868
Music: Lewis Henry Redner, 1868

In the Bleak Midwinter
Music: Gustav Holst, 1906; arr: Brent Edstrom

Joy to the World
Text: Isaac Watts, 1719
Music: Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742; arr. Lowell Mason, 1836

Sheep May Safely Graze - music in Public Domain
Music: Johann Sebastian Bach, 1713
Suggested for use on December 27, 2020 based on the RCL.
Psalm 148 tells all of creation to praise the Lord! The angels, earth, sun, moon, stars, water, animals, snow, fire, trees, mountains, and more! Draw a picture of all creation praising and thanking God!

Luke 2 tells the story of Jesus’ parents bringing him to the temple to be dedicated to God. Help Mary and Joseph find their way! Luke 2 tells the story of Jesus’ parents bringing him to the temple to be dedicated to God. Help Mary and Joseph find their way!

Jesus is described as the “true light” - the light of all people. Connect the dots to form a candle. Around the candle, write or draw some ways you see God’s light in the world.

Solve the Maze

Draw It