

to be enrolled, each to their own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths 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, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!" When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

L: This is the word of the Lord; **P: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON "Our Reason for Joy" Rev. Frank Wyche

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Apostles' Creed* Inside front cover of hymnal

*HYMN *Joy to the World* #270

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY #815

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

JOYS AND CONCERNS

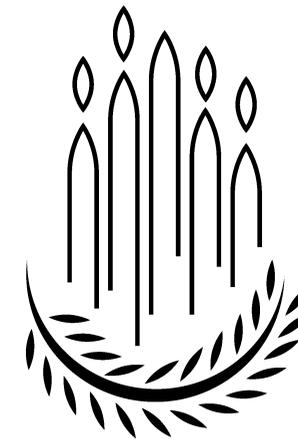
MORNING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (... debts/debtors ...)

*HYMN *Gentle Mary Laid Her Child* Bulletin Insert

*BENEDICTION

CHORAL CLOSE *Go Tell It on the Mountain* Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE Alessio Giacobone



FOURTH SUNDAY OF
ADVENT



Hebron Presbyterian Church

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Staunton, VA 24401

Telephone: 540-885-1648

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December 20, 2015 ~ 4th Sunday of Advent

HEBRON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 20, 2015

4th Sunday of Advent

11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE

Alessio Giacobone

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

UNISON CALL TO WORSHIP

There's a Song in the Air

Bulletin Insert

LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH ~ The Candle of Joy

L: Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent. We have lighted the Candle of Glory, the Candle of Prophecy, and the Candle of Salvation; today we light the Candle of Joy.

P: We rejoice in the salvation of God, which was given to us beginning with the birth of Jesus, the incarnation of the Son of God as Emmanuel, "God with us."

L: We celebrate the fulfillment of the angel's prophecy to Zechariah, father of John the Baptist: "You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth; and he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God." (Luke 1:14, 16)

P: We rejoice along with the angels, who proclaimed to the shepherds, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10)

All: May we experience, show forth, and share the joy of Christmas, and the love of God, with all whom we see. As Christ came in order to be the Light of the World, may we spread His light to all.

***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP** ~ Isaiah 2:4; 11:6; 9:2; 35:1-2a

L: The LORD shall judge between the nations, and shall decide for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

P: The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

L: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

P: The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

***UNISON OPENING PRAYER** ~ From the Church of Scotland (Presbyterian)

Eternal Father, we have been waiting, with prophets, angels, and the whole earth, for the coming of your light. Lord Jesus Christ, light of the world, come now and shine in us, in our church, and in the world, for we need your light. Holy Spirit, prepare us



**Fourth Sunday
of Advent**

for Christmas, and the coming of Christ anew in our lives, that our hearts may leap for joy at the wonder of your word of promise, that our spirits may be refreshed by your grace, and that your enlightenment fill us all, body and soul. Amen.

***HYMN**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

#249

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION ~ From the Church of Scotland (Presbyterian)

Most gracious and loving Father, we come before you knowing that your Son Jesus Christ was rejected by the world, even at his birth; and we remember with shame the ways in which we have rejected him. We have failed to recognize your Word, and we have disobeyed his message of healing and goodwill. We have spurned his way of love, and chosen to follow our own selfish instincts. We have been too proud to enter the stable, where we would find the true riches which Christ entered the world to offer and share. Forgive us also that we have failed to acknowledge that we can take the small and ordinary things of life, as you did at Bethlehem, and use them to your glory. Grant us pardon, and fill us with your grace; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Silent prayer and personal confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON ~ Hebrews 10: 4-5a, 10

L: "For it is impossible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins.

Consequently, Christ came into the world."

P: "By [God's] will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all."

L: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

P: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

***GLORIA PATRI**

#813

CHILDREN'S LESSON ~ *Children through 5th grade may go to Junior Church afterward*

HYMN

O Holy Night!

#285

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON ~ Zephaniah 3: 14, 15b, 17-18a, 19b-20a, d ~ p. 816 pew Bible

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear evil no more. The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. "I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you together," says the LORD.

GOSPEL LESSON ~ Luke 2: 1-20 ~ Page 889 in the pew Bible

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went