

this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel," which means, "God with us." When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON ~ Titus 1: 1-3; 3: 4-7 ~ English Standard Version

From Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness; in assurance of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised before the world began, but has in due times manifested the Word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Savior.

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, God saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to God's own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom God poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, being justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the assurance of eternal life

L: This is the word of the Lord;

P: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON "In Jesus, God Is with Us" Rev. Frank Wyche

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

*HYMN *What Child Is This?* #281

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY #815

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

JOYS AND CONCERNS

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

*HYMN *Joy to the World!* #270

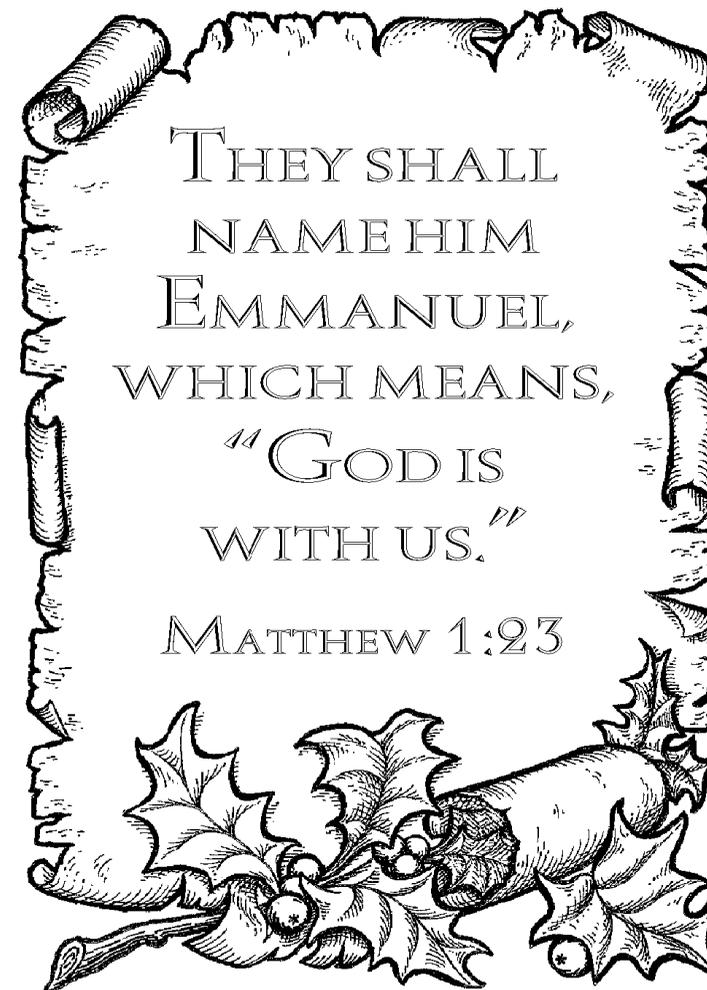
*BENEDICTION

CHORAL CLOSE *Love Has Come!* Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE Adam Kelly, Accompanist

*Those who are able may stand

BOLDFACE TYPE indicates words spoken or sung by the congregation.



Hebron Presbyterian Church

423 Hebron Road

Staunton, VA 24401

Telephone: 540-885-1648

Email: myhebronpc@gmail.com

December 23, 2018 ~ 4th Sunday of Advent

HEBRON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 23, 2018

4th Sunday of Advent

11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE

Adam Kelly, Accompanist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Silent Night

Hebron Handbells

***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP** ~ Psalm 89: 3-4, 28-29; Jeremiah 23: 5-6

L: The LORD has said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, and I have sworn to David my servant:

P: "I will establish your descendants forever, and build your throne for all generations."

L: "I will keep my steadfast love for him forever, and my covenant will stand firm for him.

P: "I will establish his line forever, and his throne as the days of the heavens."

L: Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

P: In his days, Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

***UNISON OPENING PRAYER**

Eternal God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – we thank you for the gift of yourself in Jesus Christ. In this holy season, give us humility and a sense of awe, as we contemplate how you laid aside your glory in heaven, to be born as one of us. Draw near to us as we draw near to you in this time of worship, we ask in Christ's name. Amen.

***HYMN**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

#249

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH ~ *The Candle of Faith*

L: Today we light the candle of Faith. God called Mary and Joseph to participate in God's plan for human salvation by serving as the earthly parents of Jesus.

P: By faith, Mary and Joseph believed the word of God delivered to them by the angel; and in faith, they allowed God's will to direct their lives and their actions.

L: "Faith" means "trust." Joseph trusted that the child would be Emmanuel, "God with us," as foretold by the prophet Isaiah, and that he would save his people from their sin.

P: Mary trusted that the child would accomplish God's purposes, fulfilling God's promises to Israel, and thereby bringing grace and blessing to all people.

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION ~ From *When We Gather*, Rev. James G. Kirk
God of love and compassion, in Jesus your grace has appeared for the salvation of

humanity, calling us to renounce false gods and irresponsible behavior. In the midst of our sin, Christ is still the sign of your love and mercy, redeeming us and calling us to be a people eager to do your will. Make us zealous for good deeds in response to the wonderful gift of Emmanuel, "God with us," which we celebrate at Christmas. We confess the vain worship of ourselves and our priorities, and our neglect of your children, who are our brothers and sisters for whom Christ died. Forgive us, redirect us, and empower us to live upright and godly lives in this world.

(Silent prayer and personal confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

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

***GLORIA PATRI**

#813

ANTHEM

Empty Lies the Manger

Chancel Choir

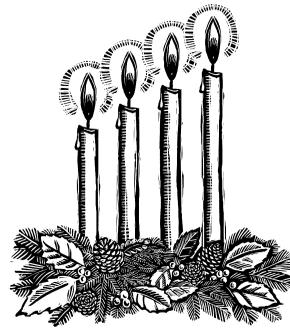
PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON ~ Isaiah 11: 1-10 ~ Page 595 in the pew Bible

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of its roots. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked. Righteousness shall be the girdle of his waist, and faithfulness the girdle of his loins. 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. The cow and the bear shall feed; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The sucking child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put their hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. In that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal flag to draw the peoples; him the nations shall seek, and his dwellings shall be glorious.

GOSPEL LESSON ~ Matthew 1: 18-25 ~ Page 835 in the pew Bible

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus [the Greek form of the Hebrew name Joshua, which means, "the LORD is salvation" or "the LORD saves"], for he will save his people from their sins." All



Fourth Sunday in Advent