

And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How shall this be, since I have no husband?" And the angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, your kinswoman Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

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

SERMON

*"Finding the Gift of Joy"*

*Rev Steve Willis*

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**     *The Apostles' Creed*

**I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,**

**And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; And the life everlasting.**

**Amen**

MUSIC

*"Love Has Come"*

Hebron Singers

Love has come, a light in the darkness!	Love is born! Come share in the wonder
Love explodes in the Bethlehem skies.	Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it.	Love is born! Come share in the wonder
Hear how their song of joy arises:	What is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!	Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers.
Love! Love! Glory to God on high!	Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel

Love has come, He never will leave us!  
Love is life everlasting and free.  
Love is Jesus within and among us.  
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.  
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.  
Love! Love! Praise to You, God on high!

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

**BENEDICTION**

## HEBRON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*FM 91.3*

December 20, 2020

Fourth Sunday in Advent

11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE

**CALL TO WORSHIP** ~ (based on the hymn *Joy to the World*)

P: Joy to the world! the Lord is come. Let earth receive her King.

**All :** Let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing.

P: Joy to the world! the Savior reigns. Let us our songs employ;

**All:** while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy.

P: He rules the world with truth and grace,

**All:** and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love.

**LIGHTING THE FOURTH CANDLE—THE CANDLE OF LOVE**

Donna, Randy, Nathan, Lacey Moyer

From generation to generation, in all times and places, the God of the covenant has remained faithfully loving towards his people. At times we have experienced God's love to be like the comfort and warmth of the flickering candlelight of Advent candles. At times we have known God's love to be like the committed parent who has to correct a child for their best sake. Yet in and through the different seasons of life, God remains perseverant in love for his people and indeed for all the world of his making.

We light the fourth Advent candle—the candle of Love—with glad hearts for the remembered acts of love and faithfulness that God has shown us. The fullness of this season is the embodiment of this love in the person of Jesus Christ. As the Gospel of John expresses this good news, “And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14)

The Psalmist writes, “O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever. O give thanks to the God of gods, for his steadfast love endures forever.” Psalm 136: 1, 2

**PRAYER:** *Eternal God, once again we have lit Advent candles in anticipation of the coming of Christ and the celebration of Christmas. The carols, music and prayers of this day all point us to the incarnation of your love in Jesus the Christ. Let your Holy Spirit be with us so that this love may be evident in us.*

AMEN

MUSIC

“Mary Had A Baby”

Hebron Singers

Mary Had A Baby, far away, In Bethlehem that night.

Where did Mary lay her baby boy? In Bethlehem that night.

In a lowly manager, cold and bare, In Bethlehem that night

What did Mary call her baby boy? In Bethlehem that night.

Baby's name was Jesus, Wonderful!

Baby's name was Jesus, Counselor!

Baby's name was Jesus. Mighty God, mighty God,

The Savior of mankind!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON ~ Isaiah 61:10-11

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON ~ I Thessalonians 5:16-18;

Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

GOSPEL LESSON ~ Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.