



December 20, 2020

4th Sunday of Advent

First Presbyterian Church of Lynn Haven

Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you! ~ Gabriel

Prelude *The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came* GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, arr. J. Behnke

Call to Worship (by Christine Sine, 2012)

Let us prepare our hearts as we await the coming of our Lord!

Let us watch for the one who heard our cries and shouldered the suffering of our world.

Let us anticipate the coming of Christ's eternal world with wholeness, reconciliation, and plenty for all.

Let us wait in expectation for the day when God's glory is revealed in all its fullness.

Lighting the Advent Candle

Hymn *Away in a Manger*

CRADLE SONG

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.

The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.

I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray.

Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Faithful God, we know that you are always present to guide us, yet we often make plans without listening to your direction. We aren't open to your presence in the minutia of our lives, and we are amazed that you care so much for us. Forgive us, and help us see ourselves – and others – the way you see your creation: good, and worthy of redemption. In Christ, Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

How can this be? That God regards us so completely? It is truly a miraculous gift of mercy and grace! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Amen!

The Epistle Romans 16:25-27

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages²⁶ but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—²⁷ to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

The Gospel Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² 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 ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ 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 holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Message Regarded by God**Advent Declaration of Faith** (*Adapted from the PC(USA) Study Catechism, Q 8*)

How do you understand the love and power of God?

Through Jesus Christ. In his life of compassion, his death on the cross, and his resurrection from the dead, we see how vast is God's love for the world — a love that is ready to suffer for our sakes, yet so strong that nothing will prevail against it. Thanks be to God!

Prayers of the People & 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.

Hymn *That Boy-Child of Mary*

BLANTYRE

That boy-child of Mary was born in a stable, a manger his cradle in Bethlehem.

What shall we call him, child of the manger? What name is given in Bethlehem?

[Refrain]

His name is Jesus, God ever with us, God given for us in Bethlehem.

[Refrain]

*How can he save us; how can he help us, born here among us in Bethlehem?
[Refrain]*

*Gift of the Father, to human mother, makes him our brother of Bethlehem.
[Refrain]*

*One with the Father, he is our Savior, heaven-sent helper of Bethlehem.
[Refrain]*

*Gladly we praise him, love and adore him, give ourselves to him of Bethlehem.
[Refrain]*

Benediction

Postlude *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn* M. Haugen, arr. B. Thoreson

Virtual Open House This Afternoon! The congregation is invited to join Pastor Lisa and Roy anytime between 2-3 this afternoon for a Virtual Open House! Simply click on this Zoom link and join the festivities:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83841562519?pwd=bFpONkNqciBIVjZoM09Mc3FhUIN1dz09>

Christmas Eve Candlelight Outdoor Worship will be held at 4:30 pm on the church lawn. No need to bring chairs; this is a brief (standing) service of Scripture that retells the first holy night and a few Christmas carols. Bring a lantern, if you wish; battery operated candles will also be available.

If you wish to make a donation to the Christmas Joy offering, please make your check payable to FPCLH, memo: Christmas Joy; or text JOY to 20222 to give \$10; or give online at

www.presbyterianmission.org/give/christmasjoy.