

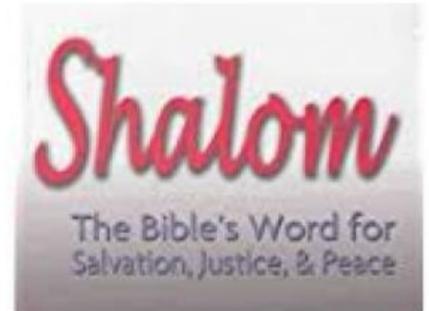


Fourth Sunday of Advent - B
December 20, 2020

Key Scripture - Luke 1:46-48

And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for ...



Theme - Why Does Mary Rejoice?

Sing in the Season

58 "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
 oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
 Christ the babe is Lord of all!
 Christ the babe is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new
 saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:
 Christ the babe was born for you!
 Christ the babe was born for you!

70 "There's A Star In The East"

There's a star in the East on Christmas morn,
rise up, shepherd, and follow;
it will lead to the place where the Christ was born;
rise up, shepherd, and follow.

Refrain -

***Follow, follow,
rise up, shepherd, and follow,
follow the Star of Bethlehem,
rise up, shepherd, and follow.***

If you take good heed to the angel's words,
rise up, shepherd, and follow.
you'll forget your flocks, you'll forget your herds,
rise up, shepherd, and follow.

Refrain -

Welcome and Announcements

Trinity is Welcoming, Open, Inclusive and Accessible.

- Trinity is an Affirming Congregation

Congregational Notes -

Thank You at all who made our Facebook Auction a wonderful success. We raised about \$2,650.00

Christmas Cards are available for sale as gift packs.

The Longest Night - A Worship Service of Hope, Strength, & Community - Winter Solstice will be held on **21 December, at 6:30 pm.**

While the content and intent will remain, COVID-19 will cause us to modify the format. We will meet in the main Sanctuary and your candle(s) will be lit by proxy.

Gift Cards are for sale through the office and can be ready for pickup on Sundays or by arrangement.

Christmas Eve Services

24 December

- Children's Service 4:30 pm will be virtual
- Family Service 7:30 pm will be in the sanctuary
 - o Please pre-register
- Late Night Communion Service 10:30 pm will be virtual

Our Stewardship Team is praying for a Christmas Miracle

Please consider Pre-Authorized Payments (PAR) as a consistent way to support the congregation



We are grateful for the Town of Smiths Falls and Lanark County. Take Away Meals are subsidized through the generosity of the Community Grant Program and COVID-19 emergency funds.

Two Guys for Lunch are active partners with us in this community service.

Trinity is waiting to see if funding for Brown Bags and Blessings can be continued in the New Year. Since the future of this program is uncertain beyond December, it is wise to consider that it will not.

While Trinity will continue to seek support from COVID-19 Emergency grants, those who receive weekly or daily Lunches should consider an alternative in the New Year.

We will hope but we also should be prepared for the end of this program by the end of December.

Acknowledging Traditional Territory

Smiths Falls is located on the traditional territory of the Algonquin peoples dating back countless generations. We are grateful for our neighbours and recognize the opportunity to exercise the Ministry of Reconciliation

Introit "Love Came Down At Christmas" vs. 1 and 3

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, love divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Stars and angels gave the sign.

Love shall be our token,
Love be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and all men,
Love for plea and gift and sign.

Call to Worship

God comes to us in the cry of a child:
Let every heart prepare a welcome.

God comes to us in the whisper of a loving mother:
Let every heart prepare an embrace.

God comes to us, abides in us:
Let every heart prepare to receive the Christ.

Let us worship the God who has come,
who is here and
who will come again.

*Lighting of the
Christ Candle
Advent Candle - Love*

The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

We are easily distracted by the darkness of isolation and fear.

Source of light, shine in our lives and in your world with your unending love.

Prayer of Gathering

Creator, Christ and Spirit,
You are holy and you are loving.
You come among us not as a warrior,
but as a child.
We come to worship,
trusting your wisdom with Joseph,
pondering your mystery with Mary.
We offer you our love for all that you have been,
all that you are,
and all that you will be,
One God.
Holy and loving, now and forever.
Amen.

Hymn 48 "Hark The Herald Angels Sing"

Hark! the herald angels sing , "Glory to the newborn King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain -

***Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"***

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity.
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!

Refrain -

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of
Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.

Refrain -

Learning with Children

Children's Prayer

Call to Confession

Advent is the time to prepare;
Advent is the time to watch and wait;
Advent is the time to open our hearts to God,
as we pray together saying,

Prayer of Confession

**God of mystery and mercy,
You came to be with us and offer us new life in Christ,
yet we sometimes stray.
You came to offer us love,
Yet we can be stubborn and selfish.
You came to reconcile all people,
Yet we remain divided.**

**Forgive,
Restore,
and Guide us.
Through Jesus who reaches out from the manger and
the cross.
Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

We meet God's gift of love in the Christ Child, whose forgiveness restores us for whatever lies ahead, giving us reason to rejoice.
Thanks be to God for this hope!

Scripture Psalm 89 (VU804);
 Luke 1:26-38, 46-55

Psalm 89 (VU804)

My song forever shall record

your tender mercies, O my God,
your faithfulness will I proclaim,
and every age shall know your name.
I sing of mercies that endure,
of faithfulness forever sure.

Almighty God, your lofty throne
has justice for its cornerstone;
and shining bright before your face
are truth and love and boundless grace.
The heavens shall join in glad accord
to praise your wondrous work and word.

The swelling sea obeys your will;
its angry waves your voice can still.
And yours, by right, the heavens and earth,
the world in life, in death, in birth.
The whole creation's awesome frame
proclaims its Maker's glorious name.

With blessing is the nation crowned
whose people know the joyful sound;
they in the light, O God, shall live,
the light your face and favour give.
All glory unto God we yield,
who is our constant help and shield.

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."

But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him 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 ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?”

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. 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. For nothing will be impossible with God.”

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.

And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,

and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

Meditation "Of The Father's Love Begotten"

Reflection

Hymn 9 "People Look East"

People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the guest is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the star is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the Lord is on the way.

**We Respond to God's Word
Offering Ourselves
For The Work And Witness Of The Church**

Invitation to Offering

The fourth Sunday in Advent celebrates God's gift of love. At this time of year, we give gifts to express our love. So let your offering today be a sign of your love for God and those in God's world who need our love to brighten dark days and difficult times.

Offering Prayer

God of love and joy,
God of peace and hope,

We are so grateful for these Advent gifts, which bring comfort and courage even in the most challenging times.

Receive our gifts as tokens of our love and loyalty.

Bless them with your grace so that they will bring love to those who need it so much this year.

Bless our lives, too, so that we shine with your love, blessing others in the name of Jesus, our friend and Saviour.

Hymn 74 "What Child Is This?"

What child is this, who laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?

Refrain -

**This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!**

Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.

Refrain -

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come, one and all, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.

Refrain -

Prayers of the People

Spirit of Hope,
Whenever the world seems confusing and bleak,
you pierce the darkness with light,
bringing hope and vision for the way ahead.

As nature around us prepares for the long sleep of winter,
we pray for those who are ill or dying,
and for those who are bereaved or feel any burden of
loss.

Give us hope for the living of these days.

God of Peace,
Within our lives and relationships,
and in communities around the world,
there is conflict and antagonism, mistrust and
resentment.

We pray for all places where violence has done its worst,
where cruelty and suspicion appear to win the day,
and where the vulnerable live in fear and despair.

Give us peace in these times.

Creator of Joy,
We thank you for moments of joy
and celebration in our lives,
for pleasure given and received,
for quiet times spent in reflection and remembering,
and
for happy gatherings, even if they had to be small.

In these colder, darker days,
We remember those who feel left out or neglected,
those who have found the months of pandemic restrictions
a heavy burden,
and those we find difficult to love, even at a distance.

Give us joy to share in the days ahead.

Love Come Down at Christmas,
You call us to live in communion with you
and one another.
You form us into families, circles of friendship, and
communities.

Today we pray for our family members,
whether we're close or estranged,
for our friends, whether near or far away, and
for neighbours who share our community,

like minded or not.

Strengthen our love for you and for one another.

And now we pray together, using the words that Jesus taught -

The Lord's Prayer

We Depart to Serve with Joy

Hymn 54 "Unto Us A Boy Is Born"

Unto us a boy is born! King of all creation,
came he to a world forlorn,
the Lord of every nation,
the Lord of every nation.

Christ from heaven descending low comes, on earth a stranger;
ox and ass their owner know;
becradled in the manger,
becradled in the manger.

Herod then with fear was filled: "A prince," he said, "in Jewry!"
All the little boys he killed
at Bethlem in his fury,
at Bethlem in his fury.

Now may Mary's son, who came so long ago to love us,
lead us all with hearts aflame
unto the joys above us,
unto the joys above us.

Omega and Alpha he!

Let the organ thunder,
while the choir with peals of glee
doth rend the air asunder,
doth rend the air asunder.

Benediction

Go now, with God's love,
the only tool we need to bring hope to the world.

Go now, with the grace of Jesus,
the only tool we need to offer love to others.

Go now, with the peace of the Spirit,
the only tool we need to mend the brokenness around us.

Choral Amen

Postlude "In Dulci Jubilo" (Bedard) Finale