Dec. 24, 2021

PRELUDE

OPENING PRAYER, WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP IN SONG

Song: “Peace on Earth/Little Drummer Boy”

Song: “Christmas Must Be Tonight”

\*Hymn: #386 “O Come all Ye Faithful” (red hymnal)

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION, PARDON, AND PEACE

**Holy God, we gather tonight because the Good News of Christmas speaks to our souls, yet we confess that all too often we neglect our souls’ needs. We gather in joy that your Word is made flesh, yet we confess how inclined we are to listen to words that would lead us astray. We gather with hope because your presence is made known in the created matter that surrounds us, yet we confess that we are often slow to embody your love through the living of our lives. Forgive us and claim us anew. Inspire us by your indwelling Spirit that we might know and show the goodness of your presence now and always. Amen**

CHILDREN’S SERMON & CANDLE LIGHTING

SPECIAL MUSIC: “Jane, Jane (Children, Go Where I Send Thee)”

ISAIAH 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness

 have seen a great light;

those who lived in a land of deep darkness—

 on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation,

 you have increased its joy;

they rejoice before you

 as with joy at the harvest,

 as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden,

 and the bar across their shoulders,

 the rod of their oppressor,

 you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors

 and all the garments rolled in blood

 shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us,

 a son given to us;

authority rests upon his shoulders;

 and he is named

Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,

 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually,

 and there shall be endless peace

for the throne of David and his kingdom.

 He will establish and uphold it

with justice and with righteousness

 from this time onwards and for evermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

LUKE 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3All went to their own towns to be registered. 4Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. 5He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.6While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.10But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ 13And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

14 ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven,

 and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ 16So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.17When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; 18and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. 19But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. 20The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

SERMON

\*HYMN: #385, “What Child is This” (red hymnal)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

OFFERING “O Holy Night”

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN:#393 “Silent Night” (red hymnal)

COMMISSION

\*HYMN: #388 “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” verses 1&2

Verse 1: ***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 angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”***

***Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”***

Verse 2: ***Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ the everlasting Lord!***

***Late in time behold him come, Offspring of the virgin’s womb.***

***Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail the incarnate Deity,***

***Pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.***

***Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”***

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE: During the organ postlude, please make your way outside to enjoy an extended postlude on the Great Highland Bagpipes

**Poinsettias Donations:**

\*2 ~ Amy Ronge, \*2 ~ Linda & Joan Trefz, in memory of Ernest Trefz

\*2 ~ Debra Sondergaard

**Music Fund Donations:**

Debra Sondergaard

Amy Ronge , Linda & Joan Trefz~ in memory of Ernest Trefz