Order for the Public Worship of God
December 13, 2020
3rd Sunday of Advent
11:00 AM Worship Service

WE COME TO WORSHIP

OPENING VOLUNTARY
“Celtic Magnificat”
Larry Shackley

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP
Rory Cooney

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
My heart shall sing of the day you bring, let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

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Stephanie Carson, Soloist

PRAYER OF THE DAY

HYMN
#108                              “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”
DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

(Stanzas 1,2,3,6)
Of the Father’s love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega; he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore!

By the Word was all created; he commanded; it was done:
heaven and earth and depths of ocean, universe of three in one,
all that sees the moon’s soft shining, all that breathes beneath the sun,
evermore and evermore!

O, that birth forever blessed when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race,
and the babe, the world’s Redeemer, first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore!

Christ, to thee with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be.
Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory,
evermore, and evermore! Amen.

THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY
Lighting the Candle, Terry & Elizabeth Curkan

The reader offers words about the candle of joy.

RESPONSE
Reader: ....and so we offer this mysterious prayer:
All: Lord Jesus, into our darkness, quickly come.
All singing: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

CALL TO CONFESSION
PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Together)

Holy God, we confess how hard it is to continually wear masks, to avoid public gatherings, to spend so much time watching screens. We are losing patience and we want to celebrate faith together. We’re caught between the selfishness of wanting to do whatever we want and wanting to protect those most at risk among our family and friends. Help us when we do not understand the way forward. Remind us daily that there is light at the end of the tunnel. Help us in these strange days. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

True freedom comes when we commit our lives to God’s intent.
When we are oaks of righteousness, prepared and confident.
When wrong no longer reigns within, and selfish pride is gone,
We reap the joy of lives in tune with God’s approaching dawn.

From Led by Love by Lavon Bayler
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DUET

“Mary, Did You Know?”
Stephanie Carson & Mark Johnston
arr. Bruce Inman

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.

CALL TO OFFERING

HYMN #100
“My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout”
(Canticle of the Turning)

Refrain after stanzas 1 & 4 only
My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great, and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servants plight, and my weakness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain: My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe all the tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.

Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me, and your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame and to those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.

From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn; there are tables spread; every mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn.

Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast: God’s mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forbears heard is the promise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around.

Refrain

WE GROW IN THE WORD
SCRIPTURE READINGS
Isaiah 11:1-2; Luke 1:46b-55 (NRSV)

SERMON
Advent Series: The World Is Not Yet Finished
#3 “Turning Towards Joy”
Chris Curvin, Pastor

WE GO OUT TO SERVE

HYMN #129
“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”
Lo, how a rose e’er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse’s lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung.
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.

Isaiah ‘twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God’s love aright she bore for us a Savior,
when half spent was the night.

This flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.
Enfleshed, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us
and lightens every load.

BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY
“Fantasia on ‘I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”
John Behnke

Stephanie Carson, Music Director
Tom Huffman, Organist & Associate Music Director
Of the Father’s Love Begotten 108

1 Of the Father’s love begotten, ere the worlds began
2 By his Word was all created; he commanded; it
3 O, that birth forever blessed when the Virgin, full
4 This is he whom seers in old time chanted of with one
5 O ye heights of heaven, adore him. Angel hosts, his praises
6 Christ, to thee with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost,

to be, he is Alpha and Omega; he the
was done: heaven and earth and depths of ocean, uni
of grace, by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the
 accord, whom the voices of the prophets promised
es sing. Powers, dominions, bow before him, and ex
to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks-giving and un

source, the ending he, of the things that are, that
verse of three in one, all that sees the moon’s soft
Savior of our race, and the babe, the world’s Re
in their faithful word. Now he shines, the long ex
tol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be
wea ried praises be. Hon or, glo ry, and do

have been, and that future years shall see,
shin ing, all that breathes beneath the sun,
deem er, first revealed his sacred face,
pect ed. Let creation praise its Lord,
si lent; every voice in concert ring,
min ion, and eternal victory,

(after stanza 6)

ever more and ever more! Amen.

Seldom has the wonder of the Incarnation been expressed so beautifully as in this text, created in the era when the Apostles’ and Nicene Creeds were being codified and mindful of similar theological affirmations. It is set here to a plainchant melody from the late Middle Ages.

TEXT: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 5th cent.;
MUSIC: Plainsong, Mode V; harm. C. Winfred Douglas, 1940
Music Harm. © 1943, 1961, 1985 Church Pension Fund

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM
8.7.8.7.8.7.7
1 My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the
2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
3 From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a
4 Though the nations rage from age to age, we re-

God of my heart is great, and my spirit sings of the
work, great things in me, and your mercy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king beware for your
mem-ber who holds us fast: God’s mercy must de-

wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
just-tice tears ev’ry tyrant from his throne.
liv-er us from the conqueror’s crushing grasp.

You fixed your sight on your servant’s plight, and my
Your ver-y name puts the proud to shame, and to
The hun-gry poor shall weep no more, for the
This sav-ing word that our fore-bears heard is the

weak-ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can nev-er earn; there are ta-bles spread; ev’ry
prom-ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

By employing an energetic Irish folk song for its melody, this ballad-like paraphrase of the Magnificat, Mary’s
song at her meeting with her relative Elizabeth (Luke 1:46–55), recaptures both the wonder and the faith of
the young woman who first recognized what God was doing.

TEXT: Rory Cooney, 1990
MUSIC: Irish melody; arr. Rory Cooney, 1990
name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn.
crushed by God, who is turning the world around.

Refrain
My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the
fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears, for the
dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.
Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming 129

1 Lo, how a rose e’er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
   of Jesse’s lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung.
   It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter.

2 Isaiah ’twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind;
   with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
   To show God’s love a right she bore for us a winter, when half spent was the night.

3 This flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
   dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.
   Savior, when half spent was the night.

Although the early copies of this 15th-century German text include many more stanzas than are printed here, this simpler, shorter form has much to commend it. This early 17th-century harmonization of the traditional chorale melody invites and rewards singing in parts.

ES IST EIN’ ROS’ 7.6.7.6 & 7.6