

Gilead Presbyterian Church  
December 19, 2021  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent, Year C  
Congregational Christmas Pageant



Convinced of God's Grace, we affirm that there can be no exclusiveness in the body of Christ. We welcome all regardless of race, ethnic heritage, national origin, age, ability, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic standing; and we encourage the full participation of all in the life of our congregation.

WELCOME

OPENING MUSIC                      "Go, Tell It on the Mountain"                      spiritual  
Mary Temple, piano                      arr. by Faber & Faber

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

**People: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.**

Leader: The Lord will give you a sign.

**People: Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son.**

Leader: And she shall name him Immanuel (God is with us).

**People: God is with us!**

The people sing: **Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel. (repeat)**  
**(Purple Hymnal #91)**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**HYMN                      "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen"**

**God rest ye merry, gentlemen Let nothing you dismay  
Remember, Christ, our Saviour Was born on Christmas day  
To save us all from Satan's power When we were gone astray  
O tidings of comfort and joy, Comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy**

**Now to the Lord sing praises, All you within this place,  
And with true love and brotherhood Each other now embrace;  
This holy tide of Christmas All other doth deface.**

**O tidings of comfort and joy, Comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy**

OPENING PRAYER

**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Loving God, we come to worship with a song of thanks in our hearts—a song of redemption, a song of hope and renewal. We pray for joy in our hearts, hope in**

**our God, love to forgive, and peace upon the earth. We ask for your light of salvation for all our family members and friends, and we pray your blessings on all people. May there be bread for the hungry, love for the unlovable, healing for the sick, protection for our children, and wisdom for our youth. We pray for the forgiveness of our sins and abundant life in Christ. Holy Spirit, fill our hearts with your love and power. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

(adapted from Rev. Lia Icaza Willetts)

SILENT PRAYER  
ASSURANCE OF PARDON

MEDITATION

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"  
Gilead Bell Chimes

Polish Carol  
arr. by Bill Ingram

INTRODUCTION TO OUR CONGREGATIONAL PAGEANT

CALL TO THE MANGER

Leader: Come, holy people, called by God, let us follow the way prepared for us.

**People: Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth among those who please God.**

Leader: Once again the world is surprised at a manger, as the glory of God surpasses what is expected.

**People: Let us go to Bethlehem to see what God has made known to us.**

Leader: There in Bethlehem and here today at Gilead Presbyterian Church, we are reminded anew of the wonder of God's ways.

**People: Let us glorify and praise God for all that we have seen and heard!**

**PRAYER, 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, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

SOLO

"Mary's Boy Child"  
Mariah Warren, alto

by Jester Hairston

### **A Rehearsal-Free Christmas Pageant by rfour.org**

**Narration**

**John 1:1-4, 9 –13, 18b**

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 The Word was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through the Word, and without the Word not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 through the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.

9 The true light, which helps everyone to see, was coming into the world. 10 Jesus was in the world, and Word that shaped the world was in him; yet the world did not know



2. I, the Lord, of snow and rain, I have borne My people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them, They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone, Give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak My word to them. Whom shall I send? (*Refrain*)

## NARRATION

### HYMN "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

[[MARY AND JOSEPH STAND]].

1. O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.
2. For Christ is born of Mary; And gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep Their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing to God the King, And peace to all on earth.

## NARRATION

### HYMN "What Child Is This"

[[BABY JESUS STANDS]]

1. 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!

## NARRATION

### HYMN "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

[[ANGELS STAND]]

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 the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"
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 God-head see; Hail the incarnate Deity,  
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

## NARRATION

**HYMN** "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

[[SHEPHERDS STAND]]

1. O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come, and behold Him, Born the King of angels!  
*Refrain:* O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!
2. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing! (*Refrain*)

**Narration**

**HYMN** "Away in a Manger"

[[ANIMALS STAND]]

1. Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.
2. 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.

**Narration**

**HYMN** "Angels We Have Heard on High"

[[ALL TOWNSPEOPLE STAND]]

1. Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply Echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.
3. Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

**Closing Remarks**

**HYMN** "Joy to the World!"

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room, And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing, And heaven and heaven and nature sing.
2. Joy to the world! the Savior reigns: Let us our songs employ;

