# Gilead Presbyterian Church December 19, 2021 4th 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"
Mary Temple, piano

spiritual 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" by Jester Hairston
Mariah Warren, alto

# 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

him. 11 He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of humanity, but of God. 18 It is Jesus, a child of God, who by being close to the Beloved Almighty's heart, has made God known.

## HYMN "The First Nowell"

1. The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay a-keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain: Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
 Shining in the east beyond them far,
 And to the earth it gave great light,
 And so it continued both day and night. (Refrain)

#### **Narration**

#### Luke 1:26 - 38

26 In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, the messenger of God, Gabriel, was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to an unmarried woman engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The young woman's name was Mary. 28 And Gabriel said to her, "Greetings, favored one! The Almighty God is with you." 29 But Mary was much perplexed by the angel's words and wondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30 Gabriel 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 Child of the Most High, and the Almighty God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. 33 He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his realm there will be no end." 34 Mary asked, "How can this be, since I am unmarried?" 35 The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; the child to be born will be holy; he will be called the Only Child 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 messenger of God departed from her.

HYMN "Here I Am, Lord"

Refrain: Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?

I have heard You calling in the night

I will go, Lord, if You lead me.

I will hold Your people in my heart.

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]]

- [[ANGELS STAND]] 1 Hark! The herald
- 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]]

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]]

- 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;

While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

4. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove The glories of His righteousness, And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love.

POSTLUDE

"He Is Born, the Divine Christ Child"
Mary Temple, piano

trad. French carol arr. by Martha Mier

Thank you to our videographer, Stephanie Gould.

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- ▶ The Food Pantry can use monetary donations, as well as all non-perishable foods and toiletries. Leave in the outside bin or call Martin for appointment.
- ▶ Prayer Zoom each Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. The link is in the weekly bulletin email.
- ► Christmas Caroling this Sunday Dec. 19 at 3 p.m., followed by pizza party at Mary's!
- ► Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7:30 p.m.
- ▶ Bake Sale right after worship this Sunday. Please pre-wrap items in containers, \$5 per plate or container.

# Musicians Holiday Week Schedule

Dec. 19,2021

9 am Gilead Bell Chimes (to play in Worship)

& rehearse for Dec.24.

11 am or immediately after Worship--Gilead Singers rehearse

Dec. 24,2021 Christmas Eve

6:15 Instrumentalists (trumpet, flute ,sax, clarinet, recorder, cello, guitar)

6:45 Gilead Singers

7 pm Gilead Bell Chimes

<u>Dec.24, 2021</u> 7:30 Christmas Eve candlelight Service



<sup>†</sup> We accept offerings through the "Online Giving" link on our website, www.gileadchurch.org, or mail checks made out to Gilead Presbyterian Church, 9 Church Street, Carmel, NY 10512. Or give elsewhere if you see a need. In doing so, we brighten the world, and brighten our hearts.

#### **GILEAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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