

Gilead Presbyterian Church  
December 11, 2022, 10:00 a.m.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent, Year A



*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

"Il 'Est Né"  
Mary Temple, organ

French Melody  
by Mary McDonald

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Isaiah 35:1-2

Leader: We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

**People: We are preparing ourselves for the days when the wilderness and the dry land shall be glad.**

Leader: The desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly.

**People: The land will rejoice with joy and singing.**

**ALL: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

**(The people sing:) Come, Savior, quickly come; come, Savior, quickly come.  
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.**



\*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

In Bethlehem, in Israel, This blessed Babe was born  
And laid within a manger Upon this blessed morn  
The which His Mother Mary Did nothing take in scorn  
O tidings of comfort and joy, Comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy

From God our Heavenly Father A blessed Angel came;  
And unto certain Shepherds Brought tidings of the same:  
How that in Bethlehem was born The Son of God by Name.  
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**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRAYER

#### **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We seek our own comfort above all; we ignore our neighbors in need; we embrace the lies of culture and earthly powers; and we refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world.**

SILENT PRAYER, ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**\*THE GLORIA, from “Angels We Have Heard on High”  
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

### THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: Peace be with you. **People: And also with you.**

### ANTHEM

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”  
Gilead Singers and Bell Chimes

Plainsong 13<sup>th</sup> Century

### TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

**Light three candles, Christ is coming—Christ, the Joy of the world!  
Light three candles, Christ is coming! Christ is coming soon!**

*The children are dismissed to Sunday School.*

### SCRIPTURE

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup> But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> 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. <sup>33</sup> He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup> Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup> 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. <sup>36</sup> 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. <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup> 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.

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup> where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup> and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup> And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup> For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." <sup>46</sup> And Mary said, "*My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, <sup>48</sup> for God has looked with favor on the lowliness of this servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; <sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me; holy is the name of Almighty God, <sup>50</sup> whose mercy is for those who fear God from generation to generation. <sup>51</sup> God has shown strength; the arm of God has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. <sup>52</sup> God has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; <sup>53</sup> God has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. <sup>54</sup> In Divine mercy God has helped the servant nation Israel, <sup>55</sup> according to the promise God made to our ancestors, to Abraham and Sarah and to their descendants forever.*"

Luke 1:26-55

SERMON

"Here We Come a-Caroling"

Rev. Martin McGeachy

**\*HYMN**

**"Good King Wenceslas"**

**Good King Wenceslas looked out  
On the Feast of Stephen  
When the snow lay round about  
Deep and crisp and even  
Brightly shone the moon that night  
Though the frost was cruel  
When a poor man came in sight  
Gathering winter fuel**

**Hither, page, and stand by me,  
If thou knowst it, telling  
Yonder peasant, who is he?  
Where and what his dwelling?  
Sire, he lives a good league hence,  
Underneath the mountain  
Right against the forest fence  
By Saint Agnes fountain.**

**Bring me flesh and bring me wine.  
Bring me pine logs hither  
Thou and I shall see him dine  
When we bear them thither.  
Page and monarch, forth they went  
Forth they went together  
Through the rude winds wild lament  
And the bitter weather**

**Sire, the night is darker now  
And the wind blows stronger  
Fails my heart, I know not how  
I can go no longer.  
Mark my footsteps, good my page  
Tread thou in them boldly  
Thou shall find the winters rage  
Freeze thy blood less coldly.**

In his masters step he trod Where the snow lay dinted  
Heat was in the very sod Which the Saint had printed  
Therefore, Christian men, be sure, Wealth or rank possessing  
Ye, who now will bless the poor Shall yourselves find blessing.

PASTORAL 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.

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”  
Penny Cameron, piano; Mary Temple, organ

Plainsong  
setting by Joel Raney

**\*SONG OF PRAISE**

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**\*HYMN**

“Deck the Halls”

Deck the halls with boughs of holly, Fa la la la la, la la la la.  
'Tis the season to be jolly, Fa la la la la, la la la la.  
Don we now our gay apparel, Fa la la, la la la, la la la.  
Toll the ancient Yule tide carol, Fa la la la la, la la la la.

See the blazing Yule before us, Fa la la la la, la la la la.  
Strike the harp and join the chorus. Fa la la la la, la la la la.  
Follow me in merry measure, Fa la la, la la la, la la la.  
While I tell of Yule tide treasure, Fa la la la la, la la la la.

Fast away the old year passes, Fa la la la la, la la la la.  
Hail the new, ye lads and lasses, Fa la la la la, la la la la.  
Sing we joyous, all together, Fa la la, la la la, la la la.  
Heedless of the wind and weather, Fa la la la la, la la la la.

**\*BENEDICTIONS**

“We Wish You a Merry Christmas”

“Feliz Navidad” by José Feliciano

Feliz Navidad, Feliz Navidad, Feliz Navidad

Prospero Ano y Felicidad. (repeat)

I wanna wish you a Merry Christmas, I wanna wish you a Merry Christmas

I wanna wish you a Merry Christmas From the bottom of my heart.



# 92 While We Are Waiting, Come

1 While we are wait - ing, come;  
2 With power and glo - ry, come;  
3 Come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come;

while we are wait - ing, come.  
with power and glo - ry, come.  
come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come.

Je - sus, our Lord, Em - man - u - el,

while we are wait - ing, come.

This simple and meditative Advent hymn is so uncomplicated in both text and tune that it can be learned quickly and sung without reference to a book, which might make it effective as a prayer response. It would also lend itself to improvised stanzas on appropriate occasions.

## 356

## God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

1 God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may;  
 2 From God our heav'n - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came  
 3 "Fear not," then said the an - gel, "let noth - ing you af - fright;  
 4 Now to the Lord sing prais - es, all you with - in this place,

re - mem - ber Christ, our Sav - ior, was born on Christ - mas Day  
 and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought ti - dings of the same,  
 this day is born a Sav - ior, the true and ra - diant light,  
 and in true love and fel - low - ship each oth - er now em - brace;

to save us all from Sa - tan's pow'r when we were gone a - stray.  
 how that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name.  
 to free all those who trust in him from Sa - tan's pow'r and might."  
 this ho - ly tide of Christ - mas is filled with heav'n - ly grace.

*Refrain*

O ti - dings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and joy,

CHRISTMAS  
**GOOD KING WENCESLAS**

John Mason Neale (1818-1866)

*Tempus adest floridum*, from *Pie Cantiones*, 1582

Arranged by George Ratcliffe Woodward (1848-1934)

Moderato

1. Good King Wen - ces - las look'd out On the Feast of Ste - phen,  
2. "Hith - er, page, and stand by me, If thou know'st it, tell - ing;  
3. "Bring me flesh, and bring me wine, Bring me pine - logs hith - er;  
4. "Sire, the night is dark - er now, And the wind blows strong - er;  
5. In his mas - ter's steps he trod, Where the snow lay dint - ed;

When the snow lay round a - bout, Deep and crisp and e - ven;  
Yon - der peas - ant, who is he? Where, and what his dwell - ing?"  
Thou and I will see him dine When we bear them thith - er."  
Fails my heart, I know not how, I can go no long - er."  
Heat was in the ve - ry sod Which the saint had print - ed;

Bright - ly shone the moon that night, Tho' the frost was cru - el,  
"Sire, he lives a good league hence, Un - der - neath the moun - tain;  
Page and mon - arch forth they went, Forth they went to - geth - er;  
"Mark my foot - steps, my good page, Tread thou in them bold - ly:  
There - fore, Chris - tian men, be sure, Wealth or rank pos - sess - ing,

When a poor man came in sight, Gath - 'ring win - ter fu - el.  
Right a - gainst the for - est fence, By Saint Ag - nes' foun - tain.  
Thro' the rude wind's wild la - ment And the bit - ter weath - er.  
Thou shalt find the win - ter's rage Freeze thy blood less cold - ly."  
Ye who now will bless the poor, Shall your - selves find bless - ing.

from *The Cowley Carol Book*, 1919