



Jump for Joy
Corby Eisbacher

Harmony United Methodist Church
December 6, 2020
The Second Sunday in Advent
The Sacrament of Holy Communion

GATHERING MUSIC
WELCOME
PRELUDE

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE

Dan, Megan, Sammy, and Myra Ensor

First Reader: This is the second Sunday in Advent. Today, we light two purple candles. Last Sunday, we lit the candle of hope. This Sunday, we light the candle of love. One verse that many memorize and remember on this day is John 3:16, "For God so loved the world..." Some people may not know the love of other people. That makes it harder for them to understand God's love. During Advent, we pray that we may remember again God's gift of Jesus to the world and know that God's love for all people is the reason for this gift.

Second Reader: When we look at the second candle, we remember God's love. When we read the words of John 3:16, we know of God's greatness and care. We remember God's love at Advent when we remember that God sent Jesus to us to help us know that God is loving and just.

First Reader: Isaiah 11:1-10 (Common English Bible)

Prayer: Dear God: Thank you for your son, Jesus. Thank you for the words found in our Bible that help us remember your love and care. Help us see how we can bring God's message to the people we meet in our schools, at our jobs, and in our neighborhoods. Help us be messengers of God's love for everyone. Amen.

HYMN

Love Came Down at Christmas

UMH 24

*Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas;
Star and angels gave the sign.*

*Worship we the Godhead,
Love incarnate, Love divine;
Worship we our Jesus,
But wherewith for sacred sign?*

*Love shall be our token;
Love be yours and love be mine;
Love to God and neighbor,
Love for plea and gift and sign.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Ann Stewart

We sing of God's mercy and grace shown to all generations.
We praise God's constant and never-ending love and faithfulness.
We rejoice that God's promise of an anointed one—the Messiah—
is about to be fulfilled. O come, O come, Emmanuel—God with us—forever!

PRAYER

Ann Stewart

God of Love, your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us. He is a sign of your love. Help us walk in that love during the weeks of Advent, as we wait and prepare for his coming. We pray in the name of Jesus, our Savior.

RESPONSE

Emmanuel

UMH 204

*Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
His name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us,
His name is called Emmanuel.*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Jessica Randall

SPECIAL MUSIC AND LITURGICAL DANCE

Mary Did You Know

Nicole and Danielle Burroughs

THE BIRTH OF JESUS FORETOLD

Luke 1:25-56 (NIV)

²⁶In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

²⁹Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

³⁵The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called ^[a]the Son of God. ³⁶Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷For no word from God will ever fail."

³⁸"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

Mary Visits Elizabeth

Pastor Debra

³⁹At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴²In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

Mary's Song

Ann Stewart

⁴⁶ And Mary said:

"My soul glorifies the Lord

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has been mindful

of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed,

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me—

holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy extends to those who fear him,

from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;

he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones

but has lifted up the humble.

⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things

but has sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,

remembering to be merciful

⁵⁵ to Abraham and his descendants forever,

just as he promised our ancestors."

⁵⁶ Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Ann Stewart

May these words of prophecy, promise, and preparation encourage us to steadfast love and action.

SERMON

Mary Did You Know?

Pastor Debra

CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor Debra

How good are we at watching for signs of God's presence in the world—in our lives, our homes?

(silent reflection)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor Debra

Advent God, forgive us when we pay more attention to satisfying our own needs, than seeking you and your will for our lives—for being more interested in possessing the material things of life, rather than your spiritual gifts. Turn our lives around so that we are looking in the right direction - towards you. Only then can we hope to recognize the signs of your presence in the world. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Pastor Debra

Hear the good news: In Jesus Christ we have been enriched in every way—in everything we say and in everything we know. In addition, through God's grace we do not lack any spiritual gift as we wait with anticipation for Jesus to be revealed. He is the one who will keep us strong to the end, so that we shall be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Cor.1:5-8)

The places at which we gather today, become symbolic for the Lord's vast table, a banquet prepared for everyone. All who seek to be nourished and sustained in the journey of faith, all who seek wholeness and compassionate paths to peace and justice, are welcome here.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Breath of Heaven

Hannah Benson

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor Debra

One: May you know that the God of comfort is with you.

Many: And may you see the God of hope with you.

One: Open wide our anxious hearts!

Many: We open them to God's peace.

One: Let us give thanks and share our joy.

Many: In this space and time, we offer God our love and praise.

The dawn of hope rests on the horizon
And beams of love reach our doubting hearts.
We celebrate the newness of this season-
Waiting to see how the Christ will appear in our world.
Even in our despair, a glimmer of hope reaches into our twilight
Beckoning us to breathe and wait...

Our story tells us that the Christ child whose birth we anticipate
Will one day sit at tables with strangers and friends,
Building relationships filled with love and grace.

We see this as he fed the multitude,
Turned water into wine,
And ate with dear ones the night before his death.

During the meal, he took the bread, blessed it, and broke it.
Eat in remembrance of me, he said.

He took the cup, and in his blessing
Reminded them that when they sipped from the fruit of the vine
To drink in remembrance of him.

Jesus. The Christ. Emmanuel – God with us.
Light of the World. The Word of Life.
No matter how we know him
Or what name we call him,
He is our hope, our peace, our joy, and our love.
May the Spirit bless us and these elements as we commune to remember him.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

For the nourishment of spirit, mind, and body,
For hope that we begin to see,
And for comfort from the Prince of Peace,
We share our gratitude, Gracious God.
Encourage us in these shortened days.
Through the long nights of this season,
May your hope carry us until dawn arrives again. Amen.

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Pastor Debra

Day after day after day you give yourself to us: in two or more gathered in your name, in connection across the miles, and in bread and wine. As we go from this gathering around your most sacred table, may we feel restored to your body, companioned by your people, and sustained by the power of your Spirit as we witness to your healing and reconciling work. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (verses 1, 2 4)

UMH 211

*O come, O come, Immanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.*

Refrain:

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.*

*O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
and order all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show
and teach us in its ways to go. Refrain*

*O come, thou Root of Jesus' tree,
an ensign of thy people be;
before thee rulers silent fall,
all peoples on thy mercy call. Refrain*

CLOSING COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Pastor Debra

Never put your faith in worldly status,
and never underestimate your heavenly importance.
Let your trust in the coming of Christ soar within you like wings of joy.
Go out into the world and serve one another as God-bearers.

Grace, mercy and peace, from God our Creator,
through Jesus our Savior,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit our Nurturer,
be with you this day and evermore.

POSTLUDE