

# PARK CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



A Dream Confirmed by Lisle Gwynn Garrity

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**DECEMBER 20, 2020 10:30 AM**

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**Chiming of the Hour**

*The ringing of the bell invites us to quiet our hearts & minds as we gather for worship.*

**Words of Welcome & Announcements**

*Welcome to worship at Park Central Presbyterian Church! May you experience God's grace and love within the worship service.*

**WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME**

**PRELUDE**

Partita on "Es ist ein Ros" verses 1 and 2

Steve Block, *guest organist*  
James Woodman

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

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 the Messiah  
is about to be fulfilled.  
O come, O come, Emmanuel!

**HYMN 11 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?**

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

*O Lord, how shall I meet You,  
How welcome you aright?  
Your people long to greet You,  
My hope, my heart's delight!  
O kindle, Lord most holy,  
A lamp within my breast,  
To do in spirit lowly  
All that may please you best.*

*Love caused your incarnation,  
Love brought You down to me;  
Your thirst for my salvation  
Procured my liberty.  
O love beyond all telling,  
That led You to embrace  
In love all loves excelling  
Our lost and fallen race.*

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God,  
you come to us again and again in love.  
We desire to love and trust you,  
but we often lose our way in the midst of pain and trouble.  
Sometimes we see only the deep sadness around us,  
and do not notice your people at work  
sowing seeds of mercy and justice.  
Sometimes we assume that things will never get better,  
and we do not recognize all the love  
that surrounds us in this moment.  
Merciful God, forgive us and heal us.  
Open our eyes to see  
the light that shines even in the darkness.  
Help us to grow in love and trust, in compassion and hope.  
As the Christ Child comes to us once again,  
may we see him and rejoice. Amen.

### SILENT PRAYER

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

## WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

### THE FIRST LESSON

Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

- <sup>1</sup> I will sing of your steadfast love, O God, forever;  
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.  
<sup>2</sup> I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;  
your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

<sup>3</sup> You said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one,  
I have sworn to my servant David:

<sup>4</sup> ‘I will establish your descendants forever,  
and build your throne for all generations.’”

<sup>19</sup> Then you spoke in a vision to your faithful one, and said:  
“I have set the crown on one who is mighty,  
I have exalted one chosen from the people.

<sup>20</sup> I have found my servant David;  
with my holy oil I have anointed him;

<sup>21</sup> my hand shall always remain with him;  
my arm also shall strengthen him.

<sup>22</sup> The enemy shall not outwit him,  
the wicked shall not humble him.

<sup>23</sup> I will crush his foes before him  
and strike down those who hate him.

<sup>24</sup> My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with him;  
and in my name his horn shall be exalted.

<sup>25</sup> I will set his hand on the sea  
and his right hand on the rivers.

<sup>26</sup> He shall cry to me, ‘You are my Creator,  
my God, and the Rock of my salvation!’”

Leader: This is the word of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## MUSICAL MEDITATION

In the Bleak Midwinter

Kent Bradshaw, *baritone*  
Mary A. Caldwell

*In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone.  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.*

*Our God, Heav’n could not hold him, nor earth sustain;  
Heav’n and earth shall flee away, when He comes to reign;  
In the bleak midwinter, a stable place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.*

*Angels and archangels may have gathered there,  
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;  
But only his mother, in her maiden bliss,  
Worshipped the Beloved with a kiss.*

*What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
Yet what I can I give Him, give my heart.*

## THE SECOND LESSON

Luke 1:26-45

<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."

Leader: This is the word of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SILENT MOMENT OF REFLECTION

# WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

SHARING OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

*You can continue your gifts to the church by mailing a check or clicking the Give Now button on the website.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN 16 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE

*The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
"All hail," said he, "O lowly maiden Mary,"  
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!*

*"For know, a blessed mother you shall be,  
All generations praise continually,  
Your Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,"  
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!*

*Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,  
"To me be as it pleases God," she said,  
"My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name."  
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Partita on "Es ist ein Ros" verse 4

Steve Block, *guest organist*  
James Woodward

## ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Liturgist.....Ben Merchant  
Soloist .....Kent Bradshaw

The theme for our Advent worship and reflections is *Those Who Dream*. The theme draws on Psalm 126: “When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.” What does it look like to live as those who dream? The prophets, the psalmists, John the Baptist, Mary, Elizabeth, Joseph, Simeon, Anna, the shepherds and the Magi—they were all dreamers. They received, discovered, and responded to God’s dreams for the world. In Advent, we step into the mystery and awe of God’s dreams and pray they shape our reality.

Our resources for the Advent season come from A Sanctified Art, including the artwork for the bulletin and adapted portions of today’s liturgy.

Pastor.....J. Andrew McTyre  
Director of Music.....Robert Allen  
Parish Associate for Christian Education.....Sarah McTyre  
Parish Associate..... Brigid Boyle  
Office Administrator.....Briana Vaught  
Building Manager.....Kenneth Pfeffer  
Nursery Care..... Yusy Cruz & Elaine Ramos Cruz

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