



GRACE PRESBYTERIAN C O N W A Y



8 DECEMBER 2019



About the Art: The cover art is a water colour by James Tissot dated between 1886 - 1896. It is entitled, The Nativity. In it we see Mary, a teenage girl from poverty, having just birthed this baby in spite of her initial reaction of terrible doubt, confusion, and struggle at the announcement. But, here we see her now finally yielding in her heart to the immensity of this news. Can you imagine what this nobody from nowhere was asked to believe? Would you have believed it? Here we see Mary finally giving in. Have you?

Our Worship and Celebration
(*Second Sunday of Advent*)

God Welcomes Us

GATHERING HYMN

v. 2 - Hymn #79

O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Leader: The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Rusty Mosley

PRELUDE

“Come, O Wondrous Child”

- Handel

(“✠” *please stand if you are able.*)

✠ **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Out of the stump of David's family will grow a shoot—
yes, a new Branch bearing fruit from the old root.

**People: And the Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—
He will give justice to the poor
and make fair decisions for the exploited.**

Leader: The earth will shake at the force of his word,
and one breath from his mouth will destroy the wicked.

**People: In that day the wolf and the lamb will live together;
the leopard will lie down with the baby goat.
The calf and the yearling will be safe with the lion,
and a little child will lead them all.**

Leader: In that day the heir to David's throne
will be a banner of salvation to all the world.

People: **The nations will rally to him,
and the land where he lives will be a glorious place.**

-from Isaiah 11

✠ HYMN

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Hymn #103

✠ LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Vicki & Charles Phares

God Cleanses Us

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to your glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace and live in the truth of Christ the Lord. Hear us now as we lift our personal confessions to you . . . *(Silent Confession)*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

✠ HYMN

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Hymn # 125

God Strengthens Us through His Word and Sacrament

FIRST READING

Isaiah 11:1-2, 6, 10 (p.575)

¹ There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. ² And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

... ⁶ The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them.

... ¹⁰ In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SOLO

“Welcome to Our World” - Cristy Mosley, Solo

- Rice

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

(Following Children’s Moment, children ages 5 to 11 are invited to attend Children’s Church. Ms. Katie will be waiting to lead the children back.)

SECOND READING

Romans 15:4-13 (p.949)

⁴ For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶ that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷ Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God’s truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹ and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, “Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name.” ¹⁰ And again it is said, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.” ¹¹ And again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him.” ¹² And again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope.” ¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

✠ **The Apostles' Creed:**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic* Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*(*the true Christian church of all times and places)*

God Sends Us

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: 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, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen

MINISTRY OF MERCY—TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

“Advent Star”

- Broughton

✠ **DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

✠ **HYMN**

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

Hymn #122

✦ **BENEDICTION**

✦ **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

v. 2 - Hymn #143

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!
The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

POSTLUDE

“Fantasia on ‘The First Noel’”

- arr. Hughes

(Please be seated during the postlude to reflect on the worship service, consider God's Word, and prepare your response as you follow Christ's light into the world.)

Announcements:

- ◇ For the next several weeks, the **Adult Sunday School Class** will be discussing the epistle of James, the half-brother of Jesus, to the Jewish Christians living outside of Israel in order to escape persecution. The letter's topic is what faith should do. And James believed that faith should do things. This is the letter that says “Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only” (KJV) and “Faith without works is dead.” Renée Hunter will be leading the discussion, and you are all invited to join in.
- ◇ If you are visiting with us today, please fill out the visitor card found on the pew Bible and drop it in the offering plate. Check the boxes and let us know if you would like more information about our church or if you would like us to pray for you.

Upcoming Events:

- ◇ **Festival of the Nativity** - Today, Sunday, December 8th @ 4:30 p.m.
- ◇ **Men's Breakfast** - Saturday, November 9th @ 8:30

Prayer Concerns:

Vickie Bailey, friend of Woosley family; Bette Callaway, friend of Herman and Betty Ellis; Bill Conner; Charlie Rose Cullum, friend of Annette Sackhoff; Pam Dalke, sister of Debbie McConkie; Jeannene Ellis, sister-in-law of Herman and Betty Ellis; Paul Ellis, son of Herman and Betty Ellis; Heather Hiatt premature baby, relative of John and Nancy Davis; Jason Hays, friend of Kevin Tucker; Jimmy and Nancy Higgins; Steve Hoffman, friend of Nancy Davis with cancer and transplant need; Betty & Fred Knight, friends of Pedersen family; Tom Less; J.B. Melton, friend of Erin Tucker; Ann Moss, mother of Debbie McConkie; Mullen Family, friends of Casee McConkie; Candice Palmer, cousin of Heather Pedersen; Jeff Whitehead, friend of Joe and Sue Dablock.

PRAYERS OF MEDITATION:

PRAYER FOR THOSE SEARCHING FOR THE TRUTH

Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

PRAYER OF BELIEF

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying our debt, bearing our punishment on the cross, and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THOSE STRUGGLING WITH SIN

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all our need, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. Amen.

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism, and in a life of committed discipleship in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen.



☞ *If you have a need (physical, financial, personal, or other), please contact a deacon listed below.* ☞

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