

FAIRFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 18, 2022

4th Sunday of Advent

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

Prelude

Of the Father's Love Begotten

arr. James Southbridge

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Richard & Deborah Wood

Reader #1 We light this candle as a symbol of the joy to be found in your kingdom on earth.

Reader #2 For the Lord elevates the lowly, releases the captive, and brings sight to the blind. We rejoice in his justice and mercy, faithful to all generations.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, come!

Introit

How Far Is It to Bethlehem?

arr. Page

Call to Worship

Leader: We stand on the cusp:

People: the promise is almost fulfilled.

Leader: We wait with bated breath:

People: the child is almost here.

Leader: We trust the well-loved story:

People: God is truly with us.

WE PRAISE GOD TOGETHER

***Hymn #182**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Prayer of Confession

Shepherd of our souls, we anticipate your coming but do not feel ready. We have done too much, and not done enough. We have focused too much on ourselves, and not enough on others. Restore us, O God: let your face shine, that we might be saved. *(Silent prayer and reflection)* Amen.

Words of Assurance

Leader: Friends, in Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven!

People: **Thanks be to God!**

*Gloria Patri #734

"Glory Be to the Father"

Psalter Reading

Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19

L: Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

**P: In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

L: Restore us, O God;
and let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**P: O Lord God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

L: You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

**P: You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and enemies laugh us to scorn.**

L: Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**P: Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

L: And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

**All: Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Time with the Children

Celeste Underdown

Anthem

Follow That Star to Bethlehem

Crocker

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Lesson

I John 1: 1-10

Pew Bible p.238 - New Testament

Sermon Series

Views of Incarnation

Message

"Gnosticism"

Dr. Steve Starzer

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*Hymn of Response # 185

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

*Affirmation of Faith (insert)

Offering

(Please sign and pass the Friendship Pads during this time)

Offertory

He Is Born
Fairfield Ringers

arr. McChesney

*The Doxology #44

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

*Prayer of Dedication

*Closing Hymn # 188

Angels We Have Heard on High

*Benediction

*Postlude

To Shepherds As They Watched By Night

Nicolas Lebègue

* Those who are able, please stand.