



**First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood Online Worship**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 20, 2020**

**PRELUDE**

**THE WELCOME & SHARING OF CHURCH LIFE**

**TOLLING OF THE HOUR**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (responsive)

I will exalt you, my God the king; I will praise your name for ever and ever.

**Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever.**

Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom.

**One generation will commend your works to another;  
they will tell of your mighty acts.**

They will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty,  
and I will meditate on your wonderful works.

**Here I am, Lord, to delight and to worship you!**

**HYMN #144**

“In the Bleak Mid-Winter”

1 In the bleak midwinter,  
frosty wind made moan;  
earth stood hard as iron,  
water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

2 Our God, heaven cannot hold him,  
nor earth sustain;  
heaven and earth shall flee away  
when he comes to reign:  
in the bleak midwinter  
a stable place sufficed  
the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.

3 Angels and archangels  
may have gathered there;  
cherubim and seraphim  
thronged the air;  
but his mother only,  
in her maiden bliss,  
worshiped the beloved with a kiss.

4 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.

**LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE**

## CANDLE LIGHTING SONG

"Hope is a Star"

Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,

Telling the world that the Savior is born.

When God is a child, there's joy in our song.

The last shall be first, and the weak shall be strong, and none shall be afraid.

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

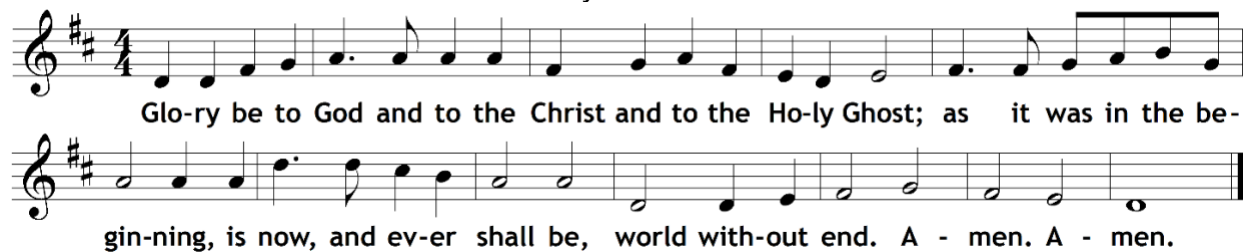
**God of our salvation have mercy on us. Our iniquities have separated us from you; our sins have hidden your face from us so that you will not hear us.**

**Our hands are stained with blood, our fingers with guilt; our lips have spoken lies, our tongues have muttered wicked things. Because of Your great compassion and mercy, do not abandon us. For Your Name sake, forgive us.** (silent confession)

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

### GLORIA PATRI

"Glory be to God"



Glo-ry be to God and to the Christ and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the be-  
gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A - men. A - men.

## SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:8-20

<sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." <sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." <sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

## ANTHEM #120

"Where Shepherds Lately Kneled"

Carl Schalk

1 Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel's word,

I come in half-belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred.

But there is room and welcome there for me;

but there is room and welcome there for me.

2 In that unlikely place I find him as they said:  
sweet, newborn Babe, how frail, and in a manger bed:  
a still, small voice to cry one day for me;  
a still, small voice to cry one day for me.

3 How should I not have known Isaiah would be there,  
his prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart, I stare:  
a child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me;  
a child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.

4 Can I, will I forget how Love was born and burned  
its way into my heart: unasked, unforced, unearned:  
to die, to live, and not alone for me;  
to die, to live, and not alone for me.

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### SERMON

“Joy”

The Rev. Anthony Rivera

### HYMN

“God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen”

1 God rest you merry, gentlemen,  
Let nothing you dismay;  
Remember Christ our Savior  
Was born on Christmas Day  
To save us all from Satan's pow'r  
When we were gone astray.

3 "Fear not, then," said the angel,  
"Let nothing you affright;  
This day is born a Savior  
Of Virgin pure and bright,  
To free all those who trust in him  
From Satan's pow'r and might."  
(Refrain)

Refrain:

O tidings of comfort and joy,  
comfort and joy:  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

4 Now to the Lord sing praises,  
All you within this place,  
And with true love and charity  
Each other now embrace;  
This holy tide of Christmas  
Is filled with heav'nly grace.  
(Refrain)

2 From God our heav'nly 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. (Refrain)

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO RECEIVE OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**HYMN #132**

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

1 Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ is born today;  
on his knees before him bow,  
and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today!  
Christ is born today!

2 Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye hear of endless bliss:  
Jesus Christ was born for this!

He has opened heaven’s door,  
and we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born for this!

3 Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye need not fear the grave:  
Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all  
to gain the everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save!  
Christ was born to save!

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

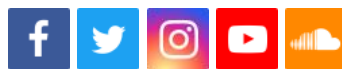
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***Participants in this worship service:***

**The Rev. Anthony Rivera**, pastor  
**Shaun Cloonan**, minister of music  
**Sunny Sakai**, pianist  
**Elder John Foster**, videographer

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on our **YouTube channel**, or audio only on our SoundCloud channel at  
[www.soundcloud.com/fpcedgewood](http://www.soundcloud.com/fpcedgewood)



*Believing we are called together by God's love through Jesus Christ,  
our mission as the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood is to  
love God, to love each other, and to love our neighbors.*