December 19, 2021 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

### SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

# **GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE**

\*All may stand as able

Liturgist: Julie Helmers

**Chiming of the Hour** 

**Welcome and Announcements** 

Julie Helmers

**Pastorale** Prelude Arcangelo Corelli from the "Christmas Concerto"

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The time draws near. The world has turned towards

Bethlehem once more.

People: We wait expectantly and hopefully.

Leader: It is a day for singing and praying and loving one

another.

People: It is a day for accessing our lives and preparing our

hearts.

Leader: May the God who came to save be glorified and

honored.

People: We will magnify His name and sing of His self

sacrificing love.

Leader: The Word became flesh. He bore our sins on a tree.

People: He was raised in glory and power. All authority in

Heaven and on earth has been given to Him.

All: Let us rejoice in God our Savior.

\* HYMN OF PRAISE 611

Joyful, Joyful

YOL OT MMYH

We Adore Thee

INVOCATION (Unison)

Dr. Dawson Harmon

We praise you, O God, for life and love and joy. We praise you for the sights and sounds of the season; for your holy presence which settles on us as we gather in your name. Grant that we may now surrender all our cares and anxieties and be gathered up in the hope and comfort of your Holy Spirit. Gift of God, Light of the world, come! Abide in us as we worship you. Amen.

# LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

#### **ADVENT CAROL** vs. 4

Light the Advent candle, four: Think of joy forever more. Christ child in a stable born, gift of love that Christmas morn. Candle, candle, burning bright; shining in the cold winter's night. Candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas Light.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE

Janet and Chip Prevatt

Luke 2:8-14

**SCRIPTURE** 

# A LITANY OF JOYOUS CELEBRATION AND FAITH

Leader: Jesus, who is he?

He is the Prince of peace who calms our fears.

He is Our Mighty God who guards our souls.

He is our Good Shepherd who leads us to green pasture's.

He is our Great high Priest who intercedes for us and prays for us.

He is our King of Kings who governs us righteously and justly.

He is our Great Prophet who speaks truth to us.

He is the Bread of life who nourishes us from above.

He is the Rock when we are uncertain.

He is the Lion of the Tribe of Judah when we feel afraid.

He is the Bright and Morning Star when we are in despair.

He is God's Beloved Son who came to save.

He is God's Sacrificial Lamb who was slain so that we might live.

He is the Light of the world who shows us the way.

He is the Door to freedom when we are held captive by sin.

He is the Resurrection and the Life and because He lives. we who believe in him shall also live.

Jesus, King of Glory . . . Lord of Life!

To Him alone belongs the name that is above all names.

# PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Julie Helmers

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

2 Samuel 11:1-11, 16

**ANTHEM** Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming arr. Benjamin Harlan Lo, how a rose e'er blooming, form tender stem hath sprung. Of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old have sung. It came a flower bright, amid the cold of winter,

when half-gone was the night.

This flower whose fragrance tender, with sweetness fills the air. Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere. True man, yet very God, from sin and death He saves us, and lightens every load.

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING** 

Luke 1:26-38

**SERMON** 

"The Angel's Message"

Dr. Dawson Harmon

# **RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

# AFFIRMING OUR FAITH

\* A Christmas Affirmation

by Nathan Nettleton Laughingbird.net

Unison:

We believe in God, the Creator and Giver of Life, who brought all creation to birth, who mothers us and fathers us, protecting, nurturing, and cherishing us.

We believe in Jesus Christ: God born among us as a fragile baby, embodying both love and the need for love, and calling us to rest in God as trustingly as a tiny baby.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, breathed into us at our birth, always drawing us on to be born again; encouraging, exhorting, comforting, nourishing our growth and inspiring our living.

We believe in the reconciliation of the world to God, through Christ, Hunted at birth and humiliated at death. Christ entered our fearful darkness so that we might enter His glorious light and share the life of His resurrection.

And we believe that each new child is a glimpse of the face of God, a sign of the life to come, and a call to live in peace and celebrate living together.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

#### WORSHIP OF GOD WITH TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory Infant Holy, Infant Lowly arr. T. Berdos
Polish Carol

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall; oxen lowing, little knowing, Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Swift are winging angels singing, Noels ringing, tidings bringing; Christ the babe is Lord of all; Christ the babe is Lord of all!

#### \* THE DOXOLOGY

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

\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Dr. Dawson Harmon

#### INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

# SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

\*CLOSING HYMN 634 To God Be the Glory GOD BE GLORY

\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION Dr. Dawson Harmon

\* **Postlude** The Sussex Carol arr. David Paxton
Traditional English Melody

# **Prayer Concerns**

for our church family . . .

George McLean Margaret Linville Wayne Thomas Wayne Hughins Melissa Scholl Jim Gillespie Nellie Songer Al Greenberg **Edward Giddens** Vernon Clark Laura Reichert Jon Scholl Carol Brown Vicki Cunningham Kay Prevatt Jerry Camp

for our extended family . . .

Mary Hammett Debra Jackson Cheryl Kelley Ed Vermeulen Julie Hough Uwe Bach David Ross **Charles Taylor** Robert Wilkerson Stephen Hogger Lisa Kraver Smith Joyce Williams Shelley Hiett Sonia Burrage **Heather Hawkins** Jill Meo Cecile Floyd Gary Mercer Greg Mercer Eleanor Garner Julie Hough Louis Scholl

grieving the loss of loved ones . . . the family of Ethel Morris-Caffee the family of Janice Scholl

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# SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY December 19, 2021

Dr. Dawson Harmon, Pastor

Cahaba Springs . . . .

is a church where all people are welcomed, cared for, and supported; have the opportunity to grow spiritually; and serve God and others in meaningful ways.