

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**Order of Worship for December 19, 2021
Fourth Sunday in Advent Celebrating Love**

Gathering Music

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude – **Canon de Noel**

MARTIN

Call to Worship

We gather in preparation

for good news is about to be proclaimed.

We gather in expectation

for joy is about to explode in our midst.

We gather in celebration

for we are those people who have said

yes to the manger,

yes to love enfleshed,

yes to the one incarnate for others,

yes to the wholeness of God.

With preparation and in expectation, let us celebrate!

Anthem

Lighting the Advent Candle

Josh, Kristina, Zach and Abbie Coy

Watch and wait for Christ's coming!

Light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love,
remembering the promises of God with prayer.

We light this candle in hope.

We light this candle for peace.

We light this candle in joy!

We light this candle with love.

Hear again the Word of the Lord drawn from Zephaniah
The LORD your God . . . will rejoice over you with gladness; God will quiet you with divine love like a child upon the breast. The Lord will exult over you with loud singing.

Let us pray:

**God of hope, God of peace, God of joy, and God of love,
Teach us how to love one another
as reflections of your light in the world.
God of promise, God of love, Meet us in our place of need.**

Our Response **He Came Down**

**He came down that we may have love;
He came down that we may have love;
He came down that we may have love,
Hallelujah forevermore.**

Call to Confession

Our Lord Jesus said:

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’

This is the greatest and first commandment.

And a second is like it:

‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’

On these two commandments
hang all the law and the prophets.”

As God has instructed us in these great commandments,
and because we have not lived in full obedience,

let us now confess our sins to God,
trusting Christ as our Savior and Lord.

—based on Matthew 22:37-40, NRSV

Prayer of Confession

Lord Christ,

**we confess our willingness to be loved
but also our reluctance to love.**

**We confess our readiness to accept your forgiving love
but also our refusal to forgive.**

**We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of redeeming love
but also our resistance to follow you without question.**

In this Advent time, forgive us our failure to respond as we should.

**Come to us anew, and by your grace, assist us to receive you
with joy, as the shepherds;**

with gratitude, as Simeon;

with obedience, as Mary;

with love, as you have loved us.

Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Silent Confession

(A time of silence will be observed for personal confession.)

Assurance of Pardon

The Lord has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: - Zephaniah

Welcoming New Members and Baptism Baptized in Water

Sharing Our Faith with Our Children

*Hymn People Look East



1. Peo - ple, look east. The time is near Of the crown-ing of the
 2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, One more seed is plant-ed
 3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build, Guard the nest that must be
 4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim One more light the bowl shall



year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble, Trim the
 there: Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish, That in
 filled. E - ven the hour when wings are fro - zen God for
 brim, Shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er, Bright as



Peo-ple, look east and sing to - day:



hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo-ple, look east:
 course the flower may flour - ish.
 fledg - ing time has cho - sen.
 sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo-ple, look east:



Love the guest is on the way.
 Love the rose is on the way.
 Love the bird is on the way.
 Love the star is on the way.
 Love is on the way.



5. Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
 Christ who brings new life to earth.
 Set every peak and valley humming

With the word, the Lord is coming.
 People, look east and sing today:
 Love the Lord is on the way.

- ² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans
of Judah,
from you shall come forth
for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.
- ³ Therefore he shall give them up
until the time
when she who is in labor has
brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall
return
to the people of Israel.
- ⁴ And he shall stand and feed his
flock in the strength of
the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of
the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for
now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;
- ⁵ and he shall be the one of peace.

39 In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your

womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

46 And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God
my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on
the lowliness of his
servant.

Surely, from now on all
generations will call
me blessed;

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done
great things for me,
and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear
him

from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with
his arm;

he has scattered the proud in
the thoughts of their
hearts.

⁵² He has brought down the
powerful from their
thrones,

and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with
good things,

and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ according to the promise he

made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his
descendants forever."

Sermon – **Changing the World with Love - Rev. Jennifer A. Baer**

*Hymn O Little Town of Bethlehem

1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
2. For Christ is born of Ma - ry; And gath - ered all a - bove,
3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, The won - drous gift is given!
4. O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by.
While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won - dering love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heaven.
Cast out our sin and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light;
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
No ear may hear His com - ing, But in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;

The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.
And prais - es sing to God the King, And peace to all on earth.
Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory – Canticle of the Turning

*Doxology (Hymn 592)

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

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

*Sending Forth and Benediction

*Choral Response

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain:

**Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills, and ev'rywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.**

**While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. [Refrain]**

Postlude

Liturgist: Ken Jones

Soloist: Jessica Starcher

Head Deacon: Cindy Williams

Pastor: Rev. Jennifer A. Baer

Music Director: Pamela Carroll

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The flowers today are dedicated to the glory of God in loving memory of Hank Williams. Given by Nancy Williams