

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent 2017**  
December 24, 2017

**Piano Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Votum & Salutation**

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."

**Call To Worship: Titus 2:11-14**

"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works."

**Lighting of the Advent Candle**

Acolyte - Brennan McCoy,  
Son of Jared and Dovie Cruz

**The Response of God's People: Gloria Patri (Glory Be to the Father)**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen, amen.

**Prayer of Adoration**

O Lord, on this 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in the Advent season may the ancient words of the Psalm 98 be manifested in our hearts and may you receive all glory and honor - our one God, Father, Son, & Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

**Old Testament Reading: Psalms 98:1-4**

"Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things!  
His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. The LORD

has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations. He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!"

**Opening Hymn: Joy to the World**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King!  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let men their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of His righteousness  
and wonders of His love,  
and wonders of His love,  
and wonders, wonders of His love.

## **Confession of Faith: The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended to heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

*\*that is, the true Christian church of all times and all places*

## **Reading of the Law: The Ten Commandments**

And God spoke all these words, saying, "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

"You shall have no other gods before me.

"You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

"You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made

heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

“You shall not murder.

“You shall not commit adultery.

“You shall not steal.

“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

“You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.” Exodus 20:1-17

## **Prayer of Confession**

### **Assurance of Pardon: Matthew 1:20-23**

“...behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to (Joseph) in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for **he will save his people from their sins.**” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).”

### **Congregational Singing: Angels, from the Realms of Glory**

Angels, from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
ye, who sang creation's story,  
now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn King!

Shepherds, in the fields abiding,  
watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with man is now residing;  
yonder shines the infant Light:  
come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn King!

Sages, leave your contemplations;  
brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great Desire of nations;  
ye have seen His natal star:  
come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn King!

Though an infant now we view him,  
He will share his Father's throne,  
Gather all the nations to him;  
Every knee shall then bow down:  
come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn King!

All creation, join in praising  
God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
Evermore your voices raising  
To the eternal Three in One:  
come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn King!

### **Worship God By Giving**

Tithes & Offering

\*Children 4 and younger are dismissed to nursery

### **Pastoral Prayer**

**Reading of Scripture: Luke 2:22-24 & 36-38**

**Sermon: "Anna: The Bold Herald"**

**Closing Hymn: What Child is This**  
What Child is this who, laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
the Babe, the Son of Mary.

Why lies He in such low estate  
where ox and lamb are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear, shall pierce Him through;  
the cross be borne for me, for you.  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
the Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
come, peasant, king, to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
Raise, raise the song on high.  
The virgin sings her lullaby.  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
the Babe, the Son of Mary!

**Benediction**

