



4 O come, thou Root of Jesse's tree,  
 an ensign of thy people be;  
 before thee rulers silent fall;  
 all peoples on thy mercy call. *[Refrain]*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Insert

Gail Plumstead  
 Leslie Pierce & Donna Pierce

### Third Sunday in Advent

Reader: "And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name'" (Luke 1:46-49).

Reader: Today we remember Mary, innocent and powerful, sacred and scared, worried and waiting as the Savior of all grows in her womb. She sings boldly when she might be meek; she bears her role in history with the confidence of a warrior; she is the beginning of a mighty revolution as the proud are brought down and the lowly lifted up.

**People: Today we give thanks for the Marys among us, who step out of the roles society has planned; unintended pioneers determined to do as God asks; fearless and fearfully stepping out in faith, and beckoning us to do the same.**

Reader: On this third Sunday of Advent, we light this candle as a symbol of Mary, mother of God, bearer of the Way.

HYMN

“Light the Advent Candle” (stanzas 1,2 & 3)

TFWS # 2090

*Candle 1* Light the Advent candle one  
 Now the waiting has begun  
 We have started on our way  
 Time to think of Christmas day.

*Chorus:* Candle, candle burning bright  
 Shining in the cold winter night  
 Candle, candle burning bright  
 Fill our hearts with Christmas light.

*Candle 2* Light the Advent candle two

Think of humble shepherds who  
Filled with wonder at the sight  
Of the child on Christmas night.

*Chorus:* Candle, candle burning bright  
Shining in the cold winter night  
Candle, candle burning bright  
Fill our hearts with Christmas light.

*Candle 3* Light the Advent candle three  
Think of heavenly harmony  
Angels singing "Peace on Earth"  
At the Blessed Saviour's birth.

*Chorus:* Candle, candle burning bright  
Shining in the cold winter night  
Candle, candle burning bright  
Fill our hearts with Christmas light.

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

### GATHERING SONG

“Like a Child”

TFWS # 2092

1 like a child love would send  
to reveal and to mend,  
like a child and a friend,  
Jesus comes  
like a child we may find  
claiming heart soul and mind,  
like a child strong and kind,  
Jesus comes

2 like a child we will meet,  
ragged clothes, dirty feet,  
like a child on the street,  
Jesus comes  
like a child we once knew  
coming back into view,  
like a child born anew,  
Jesus comes

**3 like a child born to pray  
 and to show us the way,  
 like a child here to stay,  
 Jesus comes  
 like a child we receive  
 all that love can conceive,  
 like a child we believe  
 Jesus comes**

## **SCRIPTURE**

## **Luke 1:39-56**

<sup>39</sup> At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, <sup>40</sup> where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>42</sup> In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! <sup>43</sup> But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup> As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord <sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, <sup>48</sup> for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, <sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me— holy is his name. <sup>50</sup> His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. <sup>51</sup> He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. <sup>52</sup> He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. <sup>53</sup> He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. <sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful <sup>55</sup> to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors." <sup>56</sup> Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God

**All: Thanks be to God**

## **2024 CHRISTMAS CANTATA**

Narrator: Let's praise Christmas, Jesus is coming

### **Sing for Joy This Festive Day - Choir**

Narrator: Before the world was created, before there was time and space, God had a plan to send his Son to save us from darkness. But you, Bethlehem, a small town in Judea, though you are small, out of you will come one who will rule over Israel. A world covered in darkness wanted a savior. The prophet Isaiah announced the coming of Christ and spoke of His satisfaction as setting free.

The beautiful mystery of God's plan is revealed through His grace. Why does God want to send His Son as a ransom for a sinful world? Because God so loved the world that he sent his only begotten Son, whoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God is faithful then and now. Let us all celebrate this glorious truth by worshiping Him as the Light of Lights and the King of Kings.

### **My Heart, Your Bethlehem - Choir**

Narrator: Jesus was born on this quiet and holy night Emmanuel God is with us God, who created the universe with infinite wisdom and sovereignty, chose Mary, a lowly and small servant, and sent the baby Jesus to this earth to bring mankind back. Christ came to this world and entered into humanity and our lives today. He came looking neither flashy nor decorated. He came to us in human form in a quiet, humble, stable. He was born to set his people free. The glory of heaven appeared with an angel praising God. A Savior has been born! Heaven and earth are filled with joy and praise God.

### **Away in a Manger - Choir**

#### **Violin solo: O Holy Night**

Narrator: Praise the Lord for His grace and truth! We bring you amazing news of salvation. Lord Jesus has come into our hearts. Let us praise Christmas and see His glory Jesus came to us so quietly. When Christmas is as busy as today, how can we worship Christ and what can we give? Where is the manger in our lives now? How can I find it? If we seek the Lord we will find Him. Jesus is ready to meet us wherever He gives us His peace in today's busy world.

### **Amen! Tell it on the Mountain - Choir**

Narrator: When Christmas comes and we gather to praise and worship the Lord, our hearts are filled with the love and blessings the Lord has given us. Although our celebrations look different, we come together in worship of Christ. But there are people around us who are struggling with personal pain, the sadness of losing a loved one, the pain of anger, and the hurt of rejection. For these people, Jesus is a great counselor and prince of peace. Additionally, there are people around us who are obsessed with anxiety due to an uncertain future. To these people, Jesus is a strong God and eternal Father. There is no love greater than this, no light greater than the light of Christ.  
Holy Father God, King of Heaven

### **God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen -Choir**

Narrator: We worship reverently and come to the Lord Emmanuel. Truly you are here with us in our hearts. The mystery of your grace is so amazing that it fills our lives with wonder. You came to this world to give us new hope, peace, and eternal life. Christ, thank you for giving meaning to our lives. I praise you for this

Hallelujah! Let us praise Christmas! Let us praise the Savior!

**Rejoice with Joy to the World -Choir**

**RECEIVING THE MORNING'S OFFERINGS**

**OFFERTORY PRAISE**                      **“Silent Night, Holy Night”**                      **CUMC Bell Choir**

**\*DOXOLOGY # 95**

**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.**

**\* DEDICATION**

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the  
kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**\* CLOSING HYMN**                      **“What Child Is This”**                      **UMH # 219**

**1. 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?**

*Refrain:*

**This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary.**

**2. Why lies he in such mean estate  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading.**

*(Refrain)*

**3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
 come, peasant, king, to own him;  
 the King of kings salvation brings,  
 let loving hearts enthrone him.**

*(Refrain)*

**\* BENEDICTION**

**Pastor Park**

**POSTLUDE**

**“We Wish You a Merry Christmas”**

**CUMC Bell Choir**

**\*Stand as able**

**Announcements:**

- **Altar Flowers are given by Gail & Glenn Plumstead to the Glory of God and in celebration of their anniversary.**
- **Flowers on the baptismal font are given by Jeannie Laureano to the Glory of God and in memory of her dear friend Michele Sauer.**
- **The Cookie Walk & Hot Chocolate Bar is being held today in the gym immediately following worship.**
- **The 2024 Stewardship campaign is in full swing. People can continue to send in their estimate of giving cards until December 22<sup>nd</sup>.**
- **Please see the bulletin insert for our “Finish Strong” stewardship campaign.**
- **If you did not get a chance to hang your prayer dove on the Christmas tree in the sanctuary, please note that blank prayer doves are provided in the back of the church. Please feel free to write your prayers or hopes for this Advent season on it and hang it after worship service.**
- **The Advent Bible Study will be this Wednesday at 7:30 pm. We will be studying Joseph in the Nativity story. The Zoom link will be sent.**
- **Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be at 8:00 pm.**



**Coming Up This Week**

**Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30pm – Advent Bible Study on Zoom**

**December 16<sup>th</sup>-Happy Birthday, Bill Carter**

**December 17<sup>th</sup>-Happy Birthday, Christine Waddington**

**December 17<sup>th</sup>-Happy Anniversary, Gail & Glenn Plumstead**