Lord's Day Worship

December 19, 2021 4th Sunday in Advent

*(Asterisk) indicates *Please stand as you are able.*

PRAISE

- * Call to Worship
- * Opening Hymn "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

RENEWAL

* Prayer of Confession (unison)

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, through long ages you prepared the world for the coming of your Son, Jesus. We thank you for the great surprise that He came as the friend of sinners and outcasts, not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. We confess, Lord, that we are not so different from those who could not see you in the baby of Bethlehem, the carpenter of Nazareth. We confess how blind we are. We have not seen your mighty work all around us. We confess how headstrong we are. We have not wanted to hear your Word, let alone do it. Lord, forgive us. Give us eyes to see Jesus and ears to hear Jesus, so that we may be part of the mighty work of your Kingdom. (silent prayer)

* Song "O Come, Our World's Redeemer, Come!"*

Lighting of the Advent Candles

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.

COMMITMENT

Offering

Old Testament Reading Genesis 1:26-31

* Hymn "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

New Testament Reading Luke 1:39-45

Sermon "Why Is This Granted to Me?"

Prayer

* Affirmation of Faith – The Apostles' Creed (c. 3rd century)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy universal Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

* Closing Song

"Joy Has Dawned"

- * Benediction
- * Dismissal

Church, where are you going?

We go forth to serve God's world as those who love our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Glory to God!

HAIL MARY!

The angel Gabriel came to Mary and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you! But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. – Luke 1:28-29 (ESV)

A quality that consistently shines through in Mary is her humility. She does not place herself or her plans first. God is first in her life. God's calling comes first for her because she trusts in the goodness of God through any circumstance – even a pregnancy that comes not in her timing and not as a young girl would dream for herself.

Gabriel said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" The exalted salutation troubled her. Why should she be addressed this way? It's been said the truly great saints do not know they are saints. In Isaiah 57:15 we read, Thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit..." When Gabriel explained to Mary what would happen, how she would conceive a child as an unmarried virgin at the risk of her reputation and her hopes of marriage to Joseph, her reflex response is not a protest, but simply, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word. (Luke 1:38)

Living as we do in a time when the moral scourge of abortion on demand rules our society, I wonder if we can truly imagine – especially we men – what it meant for this teenage girl to be told by God she would be blessed with a child not by her choice and not in her time. Could any of us accept that? Only the humble could. Only those willing to set self aside and say, I am the servant of the Lord, let it be to be according to your word.

Pastor Phil Moran

^{*}The text of our Confession hymn was written by British hymnist Michael Perry. He based his words on an ancient hymn by Ambrose of Milan (340-397 AD) called "Veni, Redemptor gentium" which translates as "Come, Redeemer of the Nation."



"...so that Jesus Christ might come to have first place in everything." Colossians 1:18 (b) NRSV

December 19, 2021 | Pastor Phil Moran 4th Sunday in Advent "Why Is This Granted to Me?" Luke 1:39-45

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