

Worshiping Our Savior, Who Found Us!

DECEMBER 6, 2020
10:30 AM

PRELUDE

Dennis Bergin, organ

Magnificat I Marcel Dupre

Luke 1:46-48a (KJV) And Mary said, my soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour, for he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden.

The Angels from “The Nativity of the Lord” Olivier Messiaen

Luke 2:13, 14a (KJV) And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest...

Magnificat VI “Gloria” Marcel Dupre

WELCOME

Reverend Dr. Russell St. John, Lead Pastor

ADVENT BELL TOLLING

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - THE RAHAB CANDLE

David Barnes, Student Ministry Director; Virginia McGuigan, reader

Pastor: Today, we light the second candle of Advent – the Rahab Candle. Matthew 1:1-5 (NIV) This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham: Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar, Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, Ram the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab..

Reader: When scripture mentions Rahab, she is almost always called Rahab the harlot, except in Matthew's genealogy. Matthew calls her, Rahab the mother of Boaz! Our Savior found Rahab the harlot in Jericho and transformed her by His Spirit from fallen woman, to chosen mother, who would shape the character, faith and godliness of a son named Boaz. He would one day be the kinsmen-redeemer of Ruth, mother of Obed, the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of king David. Best of all, Rahab's name in Jesus' family tree shines the HOPE of Christmas: There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus... Romans 8:1, and for God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him... John 3:17.

***HE CAME THROUGH JESSE'S LINEAGE!**

Orchestra; Carrie Smith, piano

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Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.
Is. 11:1

1. Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der
2. I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the rose I
3. The shep - herds heard the sto - ry, pro - claimed by
4. This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness
5. O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our

stem hath sprung, of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing,
have in mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it,
• an - gels bright, how Christ, the Lord of glo - ry,
fills the air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor
hu - man woe; O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry,

as men of old have sung. It came, a flow'r - et bright,
the vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right
• was born on earth this night. To Beth - le - hem they sped
the dark - ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God;
who dost our weak - ness know, bring us at length, we pray,

a - mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
 she bore to men a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
 • and in the man - ger found him, as an - gel her - alds said.
 from sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
 to the bright courts of heav - en and to the end - less day.

German hymn, ca. 1500
 St. 1-2 tr. by Theodore Baker, 1894
 St. 3-4 tr. by Harriett R. Spaeth, 1875
 St. 5 tr. by John C. Mattes, 1914

ES IST EIN' ROS' ENTSPRUNGEN 7.6.7.6.6.7.6.
 German melody, 15th cent.
 Arr. by Michael Praetorius, 1609; alt.

***GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP** Psalm 24:1-5, 9-10

Pastor: The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.

People: **Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place?**

Pastor: He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.

People: **He will receive blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation.**

Pastor: Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

All: **Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory!**

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!

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Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Ps. 24:7

1. Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates! Be - hold, the
 2. A help - er just he comes to thee, his char - iot
 3. O blest the land, the cit - y blest, where Christ the
 4. Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a

King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is
 is hu - mil - i - ty, his king - ly crown is
 Rul - er is con - fessed! O hap - py hearts and
 tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for

draw - ing near, the Sav - ior of the world is here.
 ho - li - ness, his scep - ter, pi - ty in dis - tress.
 hap - py homes to whom this King in tri - umph comes!
 heav'n's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.

5. Redeemer, come! I open wide
 my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide!
 Let me thy inner presence feel;
 thy grace and love in me reveal.

6. So come, my Sovereign, enter in!
 Let new and nobler life begin!
 Thy Holy Spirit, guide us on,
 until the glorious crown be won.

Based on Psalm 24
 Georg Weiszel, 1642
 Tr. by Catherine Winkworth, 1855; alt.

TRURO L.M.
 Psalmodia Evangelica, 1789

***WE INVOKE HIS PRESENCE**

GOD EXPOSES OUR NEED Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Reverend Dr. Russell St. John

“See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore, choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

WE CONFESS OUR SIN

CHRIST PROVIDES FOR OUR NEED Hebrews 11:31

By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.

***WE RECEIVE TIDINGS OF COMFORT AND JOY!**

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God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.
Luke 2:10

1. God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may,
2. From God our heav'n - ly Fa - ther, a bless - ed an - gel came;
3. "Fear not, then," said the an - gel, "let noth - ing you af - fright;
4. The shep - herds at those tid - ings re - joic - ed much in mind,

re - mem - ber Christ our Sav - ior was born on Christ - mas day,
and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same:
this day is born a Sav - ior of a pure vir - gin bright,
and left their flocks a - feed - ing, in tem - pest, storm, and wind:

to save us all from Sa - tan's pow'r when we were gone a - stray;
how that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name.
to free all those who trust in him from Sa - tan's pow'r and might."
and went to Beth - le - hem straight - way, the Son of God to find.

REFRAIN
O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and joy,

O tid - ings of com - fort and joy.

English carol, 18th cent.

GOD REST YOU MERRY 8.6.8.6.8.6.ref.
English melody, 18th cent.

***GOD REVEALS HE IS THE GREAT SHEPHERD OF HIS SHEEP!** Ezekiel 34:11-16; John 10:14-16

Pastor: “For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness.

People: **And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country.**

Pastor: I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD.

People: **I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.**

Pastor: I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.

All: **And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.**

While by the Sheep We Watched at Night

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. Is. 12:3

1. While by the sheep we watched at night, glad tid - ings brought an
 2. There shall be born, so he did say, in Beth - le - hem a
 3. There shall the child lie in a stall, this child who shall re -
 4. This gift of God we'll cher - ish well, that ev - er joy our

f REFRAIN *p* echo
 an - gel bright.
 child to - day. How great our joy! Great our joy!
 deem us all. hearts shall fill.

f *p* echo *f*
 Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy! Praise we the Lord in

p echo
 heav'n on high! Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!

German carol
 Trans. anon.

JUNGST Irreg.
 Traditional German melody
 Arr. by Hugo Jungst, ca. 1890

WE INVOKE HIS HELP Psalm 22:5

Dan Marcotte, Elder

To you they cried and were rescued; in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD! *Rejoice with Me!*

Sing! Jr.; Carrie Smith, piano; Matt Brantley, bass;

Nathanael Zanders & Greg Wagener, percussion

A shepherd tending his sheep one day saw that one had wandered away.
He found his sheep, oh, could it be that Jesus, like him, would look for me?

A woman having a very hard time searched her house for her lost dime.
She found her coin, oh, could it be that Jesus, like her, would look for me?

Rejoice, rejoice! Rejoice with me!
Hear Jesus say, hear Jesus say, rejoice, rejoice with me!

When Jesus tells a story, it is plain to see
That he will find us when we're lost and say, "Rejoice with me!"

A father's son had gone far away, so he watched the road each day.
He saw, he ran, oh, could it be that Jesus, like him, would look for me?

Rejoice, rejoice! Rejoice with me!
Hear Jesus say, hear Jesus say, rejoice, rejoice with me!
Rejoice, rejoice! Rejoice with me!
Rejoice, rejoice! Rejoice with me, rejoice!

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GOD PROCLAIMS HIS WORD Reverend Dr. Russell St. John

SERMON SERIES "Our Savior Found Us"

SCRIPTURE TEXT Joshua 2:1-21

SERMON TITLE *God Found Rahab*

¹ And Joshua the son of Nun sent two men secretly from Shittim as spies, saying, "Go, view the land, especially Jericho." And they went and came into the house of a prostitute whose name was Rahab and lodged there. ² And it was told to the king of Jericho, "Behold, men of Israel have come here tonight to search out the land." ³ Then the king of Jericho sent to Rahab, saying, "Bring out the men who have come to you, who entered

your house, for they have come to search out all the land.”⁴ But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. And she said, “True, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from.⁵ And when the gate was about to be closed at dark, the men went out. I do not know where the men went. Pursue them quickly, for you will overtake them.”⁶ But she had brought them up to the roof and hid them with the stalks of flax that she had laid in order on the roof.⁷ So the men pursued after them on the way to the Jordan as far as the fords. And the gate was shut as soon as the pursuers had gone out.

⁸ Before the men lay down, she came up to them on the roof⁹ and said to the men, “I know that the LORD has given you the land, and that the fear of you has fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you.¹⁰ For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you devoted to destruction.¹¹ And as soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man because of you, for the LORD your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath.¹² Now then, please swear to me by the LORD that, as I have dealt kindly with you, you also will deal kindly with my father’s house, and give me a sure sign¹³ that you will save alive my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them, and deliver our lives from death.”¹⁴ And the men said to her, “Our life for yours even to death! If you do not tell this business of ours, then when the LORD gives us the land we will deal kindly and faithfully with you.”

¹⁵ Then she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house was built into the city wall, so that she lived in the wall.¹⁶ And she said to them, “Go into the hills, or the pursuers will encounter you, and hide there three days until the pursuers have returned. Then afterward you may go your way.”¹⁷ The men said to her, “We will be guiltless with respect to this oath of yours that you have made us swear.¹⁸ Behold, when we come into the land, you shall tie this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and you shall gather into your house your father and mother, your brothers, and all your father’s household.¹⁹ Then if anyone goes out of the doors of your house into the street, his blood shall be on his own head, and we shall be guiltless. But if a hand is laid on anyone who is with you in the house, his blood shall be on our head.²⁰ But if you tell this business of ours, then we shall be guiltless with respect to your oath that you have made us swear.”²¹ And she said, “According to your words, so be it.” Then she sent them away, and they departed. And she tied the scarlet cord in the window.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about. Luke 2:15

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant,
2. God of God, Light of Light;
3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing:

O come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem; come and be - hold him
lo, he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb: ver - y God, be -
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove; glo - ry to God
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n; Word of the Fa - ther,

REFRAIN

born the King of an - gels;
got - ten, not cre - a - ted; O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let
in the high - est;
late in flesh ap - pear - ing;

us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

Latin hymn
Attr. to John Francis Wade, 1751
Tr. by Frederick Oakeley, 1841; alt.

ADESTE FIDELES 6.6.10.5.6.ref.
John Francis Wade's *Cantus Diversi*, 1751

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Reprise: O Come, All Ye Faithful!*

