

TULLY UNITED COMMUNITY CHURCH

December 24, 2023, 9:30 AM

The Rev. Richard G. Reed, Pastor



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

—TOGETHER WE WORSHIP THE LIVING GOD—

STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Tully United Community Church would like to acknowledge with respect the Onondaga Nation, Fire-keepers of the Haudenosaunee, the indigenous peoples on whose ancestral lands our buildings now stand.

PRELUDE

“Angels We Have Heard On High”

arr. Ted Smith

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*We welcome, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, all who have gathered to worship God together – those who are here in person, and those joining us on ZOOM. Are there any **BRIEF** announcements? Let us worship God.*

CHORAL INTROIT

“A Prayer For Advent”
Laura Currie Chancel Choir

Williams/Nolan

GREETING

Celebrant: Today is God's day of love – God's love is coming fully into the world. God so loved the world that God gave us his only son. Revealed in the life of Jesus, the unconditional love of God was made flesh and dwelt among us full of grace and truth.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: The time is very near! How quickly it has come upon us!

People: We are breathless – still so much to be done!

Liturgist: Calm your spirits. Take time to hear the wondrous news.

People: Open our ears to hear the story of Mary, Joseph and Jesus.

Liturgist: Believe in the good news!

People: We believe and rejoice! God's love is here with us!

ADVENT CAROL

“Light These Lights”

Insert

ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTING

Liturgist: Last Sunday we lit the candle of Hope, remembering the hope which comes in Christ, the candle of Peace, remembering God's dream of a peaceful world, and the candle of Joy, remembering the Spirit within us who brings joy. Today we light the fourth candle of Advent; the candle of Love.

People: “There is no fear in love, for perfect love casts out fear.” (1 John 4:18)

All four candles (but not the white Christ candle) are lighted.

Liturgist: God created this world in love and this world will end in the love of God. God's love pervades all aspects of this life. From birth to death, pain to delight, strangers to lovers, God's love is here; within us and around us. Together let us pray:

God of all love, our hearts are moved by your gracious promises fulfilled for us in Jesus Christ. Give us the grace we need to live lovingly in all of life, and empower us to make your love known through the deeds of our lives; for we gather and offer ourselves to you in his name. Amen.

**CAROL

“People, Look East”

#202

**1. People, look east. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.**

**Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.**

People, look east and sing today: Love, the guest, is on the way.

2. Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the rose, is on the way.

3. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the star, is on the way.

4. 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.

****PASSING THE PEACE**

Celebrant: *The peace of Christ be with you.*

People: AND ALSO WITH YOU.

Celebrant: *Let us share signs of welcome and peace with our neighbors.*

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Rise Up Shepherds, and Follow”
Kay Crosley Bell Choir

arr. Lloyd Larson

- WE REJOICE IN THE WORD OF GOD -

FIRST LESSON

Second Samuel 7:1-7, 16

Liturgist: A reading from Second Samuel. God's covenant with David.

Now when the king was settled in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, “See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.” Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that you have in mind, for the LORD is with you.”

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, “Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a

tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel, and I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place and be disturbed no more, and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel, and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever."

Here ends the reading.

CANTICLE OF MARY

#199

R  **The glory of the Lord shall be revealed; all flesh shall see it together.** 

Liturgist: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

**People: my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
who has looked with favor on me, a lowly servant.**

Liturgist: From this day all generations shall call me blessed:

**People: the Almighty has done great things for me
and holy is the name of the Lord,
whose mercy is on those who fear God,
from generation to generation.**

Liturgist: The arm of the Lord is strong,
and has scattered the proud in their conceit,

**People: God has cast down the mighty from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly.**

Liturgist: God has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich empty away.

**People: God has come to the aid of Israel, the chosen servant,
remembering the promise of mercy,
the promise made to our forebears,
to Abraham and his children for ever. **R****

SECOND LESSON**Romans 16:25-27****Liturgist: A reading from the Apostle Paul's letter to the Romans.**

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

Here ends the reading.****GLORIA PATRI****#70**

**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.**

****THE GOSPEL****+ Luke 1:26-38 +**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

SERMON**The Rev. Richard G. Reed******HYMN****"Ye Who Claim The Faith Of Jesus"****#197**

1. Ye who claim the faith of Jesus sing the wonders that were done,
when the love of God the Father o'er our sin the victory won,
when he made the Virgin Mary Mother of his only Son.

2. Blesséd were the chosen people out of whom the Lord did come,
blesséd was the land of promise fashioned for his earthly home;
but more blesséd far the Mother she who bore him in her womb.

3. Therefore let all faithful people tell the honor of her name,
let the church in her foreshadowed part in her thanksgiving claim;
what Christ's Mother sang in gladness let Christ's people sing the same.

4. "Magnify, my soul, God's greatness; in my Savior I rejoice;
All the ages call me blesséd, in his praise I lift my voice;
He has cast down all the mighty, and the lowly are his choice."

-WE BOW BEFORE THE LORD IN PRAYER-

SHARING JOYS, AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (using "sins")

#894

Bidding: O magnify the Lord with me;

Response: let us rejoice in God our Savior!

Celebrant: O God, may your spirit be our strength, your word be our guide, your love be our comfort, and your promises be our hope, as we pray: O magnify the Lord with me; **let us rejoice in God our Savior!**

Liturgist: For all who are busily preparing for Christmas: that the Holy Spirit will help us be loving in all our activities and aware of whose life we celebrate
O magnify the Lord with me; **let us rejoice in God our Savior!**

For the leaders of the world: that they may work for peace and justice among the nations.

O magnify the Lord with me; **let us rejoice in God our Savior!**

For all who are serving in the military, for their families, and for all who serve a greater good away from home this season: that God will guide their efforts and protect them from all danger.

O magnify the Lord with me; **let us rejoice in God our Savior!**

For freedom from judging others: that like Joseph, we may withhold our judgments so that the work of God may unfold in the hearts and lives of those who are dear to us.

O magnify the Lord with me; **let us rejoice in God our Savior!**

For those who travel during this holiday season: that their reunions and celebrations may be occasions for joy and that they return home safely.

O magnify the Lord with me; **let us rejoice in God our Savior!**

Gracious God, give health and wholeness to the sick, and give patience and understanding to those who take care of them. And hear our prayers especially for those whom we have named aloud and those we bring to you in the silence. (moment of silence)

O magnify the Lord with me; **let us rejoice in God our Savior!**

Celebrant: Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. And let us pray the prayer of our Lord, saying:

**“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 sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever. Amen.”**

CHORAL ANTHEM

“Who Is This Tiny Child?”

Laura Currie Chancel Choir

- WE OFFER OUR GIFTS TO GOD -

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Celebrant: Christ our Lord has shown the greatest love of all, in offering himself to us in the flesh. He invites you to meet him here, to receive his gifts, and to give of yourself.

****DOXOLOGY, PRESENTATION, AND OFFERTORY PRAYER**

#95

Celebrant: We celebrate your love, God of life, in these gifts and in the daily lives we lead that allow us to bring them. We would give you all, and ask that you bless these tokens of our very selves, so that the world may receive your ultimate gift of love in Jesus Christ, our coming Lord. Amen.

- WE ARE SENT TO PROCLAIM GOOD NEWS -

****HYMN**

“Once In Royal David’s City”

#250

**1. Once in royal David's city Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby In a manger for His bed;
Mary, loving mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.**

**2. He came down to earth from heaven Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable, And His cradle was a stall.
With the poor, the scorned, the lowly Lived on earth our Savior holy.**

**3. Jesus is our childhood's pattern; Day by day, like us He grew;
He was little, weak and helpless, Tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feeleth for our sadness, And He shareth in our gladness.**

**4. And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His own redeeming love;
For that child, so dear and gentle Is our Lord in heaven above;
And He leads His children on To the place where He is gone.**

****BLESSING AND BENEDICTION**

Celebrant: May the one who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill.

And the blessing of God, the love of Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit remain with you always.

People: Amen! Thanks be to God!

CHORAL BENEDICTION

“May The Light Of Christ”

Fettke

ORGAN POSTLUDE

“Hark, The Herald Angels Sing”

arr. Fred Bock

****Indicates to rise if you are able**