**Worship at Bethel 12-20-20**

**4th Sunday in Advent**

**Music: Piano: Mila Khmeleva Hymnists: Grace Flows Down**

Welcome & Announcements – Pastor Barb

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L: Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world,

ALL: the light no darkness can overcome.

L: Stay with us now, for it is evening,

ALL: and the day is almost over.

L: Let your light scatter the darkness,

ALL: and shine within your people here.

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All: AMEN**

 ***Lighting of the Advent Wreath***

P: *Today is the third Sunday of Advent, the Sunday in which we recall the PEACE we have in Christ.*

***C: The prophets of Israel all spoke of the coming of Christ, of how the Savior would be born, a king of the line of David. They spoke of how he would rule the world wisely and bless the nations.***

P: *On Christmas day the Christ of PEACE was born. On Good Friday the Christ of PEACE died. On Easter morning the Christ of PEACE rose from the dead. He then ascended into heaven. On the last day the Christ of PEACE will return again bringing in his kingdom to reign over all the earth.*

***C: As followers of Christ, we await his return. We light these four candles to remember that as he came to us humbly in a manager at Bethlehem and gave light to the world, so he is coming again in power to deliver his people.***

P: *We light this candle to remind us to be filled with PEACE as we watch for his return.*

**SONG - “Joyous Light”**

1. Joyous light of heav’nly glory, loving glow of God’s own face,

You who sing creation’s story, shine on ev’ry land and race.

Now as evening falls around us, we shall raise our songs to you.

God of daybreak, God of shadows, come and light our hearts anew.

1. In the stars that grace the darkness, in the blazing sun of dawn,

In the light of peace and wisdom, we can hear your quiet song.

Love that fills the night with wonder, love that warms the weary soul,

Love that bursts all chains asunder, set us free and make us whole.

1. You who made the heaven’s splendor, ev’ry dancing star of night,

Make us shine with gentle justice, let us each reflect your light.

Mighty God of all creation, gentle Christ who lights our way, loving Spirit of salvation, lead us on to endless day.

**Opening Prayer**

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

**The Annunciation**

**“The Magnificat”**

1.,3. My soul proclaims your greatness, O God, and my spirit rejoices in you.

You have looked with love on your servant here, and blessed me

all my life through.

Great and mighty are you, O Holy One, strong is your kindness evermore.

How you favor the weak and lowly one, humbling the proud of heart!

 2. You have cast the mighty down from their thrones, and uplifted the

 humble of heart. You have filled the hungry with wondrous things,

 and left the wealthy no part.

 Great and mighty are you, O Faithful One, strong is your justice,

 strong your love, as you promised to Sarah and Abraham,

 kindness forevermore.

Sermon **“God with Us brings PEACE”**

***Litany of Confession and Forgiveness***

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Forgive those moments when we have failed to live as your people, longing for your return. Forgive our moments of selfishness. Forgive our moments of anger. Help keep us alert for you.

P: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgiving us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ as we are strengthened in all goodness with our eyes opened to watch for Christ’s return. May God keep us ever mindful of his coming. In the name of the Father, + and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

**Apostles’ Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,**

**creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,**

 **who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

 **born of the virgin Mary,**

 **suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

 **was crucified, died, and was buried;**

 **he descended into hell.**

 **On the third day he rose again;**

 **he ascended into heaven,**

 **he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

 **and 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.**

**Prayers of the Church**

**Communion: Words of Institution**

**Lord’s Prayer**

**Benediction**

**Closing Song: “Peace, Peace” “Silent Night, Holy Night” ELW, # 281**

**Grace Flows Down** will begin with the words to **“Peace, Peace”** which will be followed by the 1st verse of **“Silent Night”.**

1. Silent Night, Holy Night! All is calm, all is bright

round yon virgin mother and child.

Holy Infant, so tender and mild,

sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

P: Go in Peace, serve the Lord!

**C: Thanks be to God!**

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