



Centenary

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 19, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Advent

(As the Prelude begins, you are invited to enter a time of prayer and meditation as we prepare to worship God together.)

The Prelude

Savior of the Nations, Come

Dietrich Buxtehude

The Call to Worship

Leader: God has done great things for us!

People: God's love is heralded in the promise of Christ.

Leader: Holy is God's name!

People: God's promises are fulfilled in the coming of Christ.

Leader: God's mercy extends from generation to generation.

People: God's salvation is offered in the gift of Christ.

The Opening Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **Holy God, your prophet Micah foretold with faith
that a new ruler would come forth from Bethlehem—
today we celebrate the fulfillment of your promise;
your daughter Elizabeth proclaimed with faith
that her cousin was to be the mother of her Lord—
today we celebrate the fulfillment of your promise;
your servant Mary with faith
that she would be called blessed by all generations—
today we celebrate the fulfillment of your promise.**

**Make us bold enough to proclaim with faith—
the coming of your kingdom,
the coming of your justice,
the coming of your peace.**

**May we sing out the good news of your salvation,
trusting in fulfillment of your promises.**

All this we pray in the name of the one who comes. Amen.

The Hymn No. 214

Savior of the Nations, Come

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

1. Savior of the nations, come;
Virgin's son, here make they home!
Marvel now, O heaven and earth,
that our Lord chose such a birth.

2. Not by human flesh and blood;
by the spirit of our God
was the Word of God made flesh,
woman's offspring, pure and fresh.

3. Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child
of the Virgin undefiled!
Human and divine in one,
eager now his race to run!

5. Now your lowly manger bright
Hallows night with newborn light;
Let no night this light subdue,
Let our faith shine ever new.

4. God the Father is his source,
back to God he runs his course;
down to death and hell descends,
God's high throne he reascends.

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Clayton Family

Leader: We light this candle as a symbol of the Prince of Peace.
May the visitation of your Holy Spirit, O God,
make us ready for the coming of Jesus, our hope and joy.

People: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

The Scripture Lesson

Micah 5:2-5a

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Sermon

I'm Dreaming of a Small Christmas

Dr. Matthew D. Bates

The Offertory Prayer

The Offertory

The Song of Mary

adapted by Bruce E. Ford; acc. by Alec Wyton
Plainsong, *Tonus Peregrinus*

The Prayers of the People

The Silent Prayer

The Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer No. 895

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 that 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.

The Hymn No. 198

My Soul Gives Glory to My God

MORNING SONG

1. My soul gives glory to my God,
My heart pours out its praise.
God lifted up my lowliness
In many marvelous ways.

2. My God has done great things for me:
Yes, holy is this Name.
All people will declare me blessed,
And blessings they shall claim.

3. From age to age to all who fear,
Such mercy love imparts,
Dispensing justice far and near,
Dismissing selfish hearts.
4. Love casts the mighty from their thrones,
Promotes the insecure,
Leaves hungry spirits satisfied;
The rich seem suddenly poor.
5. Praise God, whose loving covenant
Supports those in distress,
Remembering past promises
With present faithfulness.

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The Benediction

The Postlude *In Dreams* Words and music by Fran Walsh and Howard Shore
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Please welcome substitute organist Michael Simpson to our service today.

Michael is a retired church musician. He served three churches in Richmond during a career of more than 50 years. He was also accompanist and assistant director of the Richmond Symphony Chorus.

***The altar flowers are given by Jan and Troy Nelson
in honor of their children and grandchildren.***

***The poinsettias are given by the Centenary family
in honor of our fantastic Centenary staff.***

***Thank you to all the volunteers who helped us this morning
and throughout the week to make this worship possible.***

Scripture Reading

Micah 5:2-5a

The Ruler from Bethlehem

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;

⁵and he shall be the one of peace.
If the Assyrians come into our land
and tread upon our soil,
we will raise against them seven shepherds
and eight installed as rulers.

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