

December 12, 2021

10:15 AM

## FLORISSANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Welcome! We are so happy to have you join us in-person, on Facebook live, or outside in our drive-in for worship today. If you are participating in our drive-in-service, please tune your FM receiver to the 107.9 station and you will be able to hear in stereo from inside your car.

**HYMN:** O come, O come, Emmanuel #88

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

Lighting of the Advent Candles

2. O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
our spirits by thine advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.
3. O come, thou Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

**CALL TO WORSHIP:** (Psalm 126)

**One:** When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

**Many:** Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, 'The LORD has done great things for them.'



One: The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

**Many: Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses in the Negeb. May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.**

**All: Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.**

### **OPENING PRAYER Unison**

**O Gracious God, we come in-person and online to worship and to seek the courage to address the darkness of our world. In Jesus' being born into our lives, our hope is manifest in His flesh, our peace is placed in the shelter of a manger, and our joy shines like starlight into our world. As we prepare for Christmas, we long for the joy of Your presence to lighten the burdens of our lives, and may we praise God forever. Amen.**

### **HYMN OF PRAISE: Prepare the Way, O Zion #106**

1. Prepare the way, O Zion; your Christ is drawing near!  
Let ev'ry hill and valley a level way appear.  
Greet One who comes in glory, fore told in sacred story.  
Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.
2. He brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heav'n above.  
His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, peace, and love.  
Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.  
Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.
3. Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Saviour's rule embrace.  
His tidings of salvation proclaim in ev'ry place.  
All lands will bow before him, their voices will adore him.  
Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION Unison**

**God of all Truth, we confess that we get caught up in all sorts of external Christmas planning and preparation, and neglect to prepare ourselves. We realize that we easily let Christmas come and go in superficial flurries or sentimental nostalgia without Jesus even touching us. So, we come in repentance, O God, as**

**we ask Your forgiveness. Let us praise Our God who prepares us for Christmas that our joy may be complete.**

*Time for silent, personal prayer*

## **PASSING OF CHRIST'S PEACE**

### **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (all sing) # 582**

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. Amen.**

**World without end, without end. Amen. (x 3)  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. Amen.**

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

### **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

#### **Zephaniah 3:14-20**

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgements against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time, I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

#### **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:** To Hear the Angles Sing

## **MUSICAL OFFERINGS**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

## **CONGREGATIONAL LIFE and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**HYMN:** It Came Upon the Midnight Clear #123

1. It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth,  
to touch their harps of gold:  
“Peace on the earth, good will to all,  
from heaven’s all-gracious King”:  
the world in solemn stillness lay,  
to hear the angels sing.
2. Still through the cloven skies they come,  
with peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heavenly music floats  
o’er all the weary world:  
above its sad and lowly plains  
they bend on hovering wing,  
and ever o’er its Babel sounds

the blessed angels sing.

3. Yet with the woes of sin and strife  
the world has suffered long;  
beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled  
two thousand years of wrong;  
and we at war on earth hear not  
the tidings that they bring;  
O, hush the noise and cease the strife  
to hear the angels sing!
  
4. And you, beneath life's crushing load,  
whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way  
with painful steps and slow,  
look now, for glad and golden hours  
come swiftly on the wing:  
O, rest beside the weary road,  
and hear the angels sing.
  
5. For lo, the days are hastening on,  
by prophets seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years  
shall come the time foretold,  
when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendors fling,  
and the whole world give back the song  
which now the angels sing.

## **CHARGE and BLESSING**

## **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

May the Lord, mighty Lord, bless and keep you forever.  
Grant you peace, perfect peace, courage in every endeavor  
Lift your eyes and see his face and his grace forever.  
May the Lord, mighty Lord, bless and keep you forever.

## **POSTLUDE**



Georgiana, Candy, Ruth, Ellen, Tom, Lois, Lynn, Dianne, Fern, Doris, Carol, Sara, Pamela, Carole's niece Brittany, Mary's brother, Sue's friend Lill, Ruth & her great grandson, Sue & her brother-in-law Shawn and her sister Lynn.