

December 19, 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, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.



CALL TO WORSHIP: (Psalm 89:1-4,19-26)

One: I will sing of Your steadfast love, O LORD, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Your faithfulness to all generations.

Many: I declare that Your steadfast love is established forever; Your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

One: You said, 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to my servant David: "I will establish your descendants forever, and build your throne for all generations."'"

Many: Then You spoke in a vision to your faithful one, and said: 'I have set the crown on one who is mighty, I have exalted one chosen from the people.

One: I have found my servant David; with my holy oil I have anointed him; my hand shall always remain with him; my arm also shall strengthen him.

Many: The enemy shall not outwit him, the wicked shall not humble him.

One: I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him.

Many: My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with him; and in my name his horn shall be exalted. I will set his hand on the sea and his right hand on the rivers.

All: He shall cry to me, "You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation!"

OPENING PRAYER Unison

Trusting in Your Love, O God, we rejoice that the wondrous days of Christmas are approaching. Through Jesus' humble birth in a Bethlehem manger, we know that Christ came into this world to bring peace, hope, joy, and love. Even the poorest and most helpless in our world can know that, with God's Grace, the impossible becomes possible and the improbable becomes real. As this forth Sunday of Advent is upon us, let us again make ready our hearts to celebrate the Love of Christmas together. Amen

HYMN OF PRAISE: My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout #100

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the
God of my heart is great, And my spirit sings of the
wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait. You
fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my
weakness you did not spurn, So from east to west shall my
name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?
My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the
fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears, for the
dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn!

Though I am small, my God, my all, you
work great things in me, And your mercy will last from the
depths of the past to the end of the age to be. Your
very name puts the proud to shame, and to
those who would for you yearn, You will show your might, put the
strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.
My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the
fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears, for the
dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn!

From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a
stone will be left on stone. Let the king beware for your
justice tears ev'ry tyrant from his throne. The
hungry poor shall weep no more, for the
food they can never earn; There are tables spread, ev'ry
mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn.
My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the
fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears, for the
dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn!

Though the nations rage from age to age, we remeber
who holds us fast: God's mercy must deliver
us from the conqueror's crushing grasp. This
saving word that our forebears heard is the
promise which holds us bound, 'Til the spear and rod can be
crushed by God, who is turning the world around.
My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the
fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears, for the
dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn!

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the
fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Unison

Lord, Jesus, we are often skeptical of Your eternal presence with us. We behave as if there is no God and we choose evil and ease instead of goodness and righteousness. We close our hearts and minds to your way of unconditional love and our doubts make us live lives far less whole than they could be. Gracious Lord,

call us back again to recognize Emanuel, God with us, and to receive the Good News of Your eternal love.

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

Micah 5:2-5

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. Therefore, 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. And 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; and he shall be the one of peace.

Luke 1:39-55

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.'

SERMON: Magnifying the Lord

MUSICAL OFFERINGS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE and ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN: The First Noel #147

1. The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.

2. They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. [Refrain]
3. And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. [Refrain]

4. This star drew nigh to the northwest;
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay. [Refrain]
5. Then entered in those wise men three,
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. [Refrain]
6. Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought. [Refrain]

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.