



December 24, 2020
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

www.greenfieldcharge.org

greenfieldchargeucc@gmail.com

Facebook: Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

Pastor
Wendy Farber

Pianist

farberhome@atlanticbb.net

Advent Thought

“He who has not Christmas in his/her heart will never find it under a tree.”

Roy L. Smith

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

* *Opening Carol* “*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*”

It came upon a 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 men
From heaven's all gracious King!”
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

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.

And ye, 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.

Lighting the Advent Candle - The Christ Candle

Holy One, we give you thanks for your presence among us in Jesus, your Child, born into a poor family. Christ has entered our lives, and embraced our hope and our struggle; showing forth the power of your love in healing, teaching, and challenging the powers of the world that lead to death. With confidence in your faithfulness, we welcome your beloved Child in our midst.

God be with us in the Light of Christ.

Lighting of the Candle

Special Music **“Angels We Have Heard on High”**

Flutist: Kaitlyn Farber

Christmas Story

Luke 2:1-7 NIV

The Birth of Jesus

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Special Music **“Mary Did You Know”**

Pianist: Aaron Reynolds

* *Christmas Gospel*

Luke 2:8-14 NIV

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

* *Meditation Carol* “*Angels, from the Realms of Glory*”

**Angels, from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o’er all the earth;
Ye who sang creations’ story
Now proclaim Messiah’s birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the new-born King.**

**Shepherds in the fields abiding,
Watching o’er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing,
Yonder shines the infant Light:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the new-born King.**

**Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam a-far;
Seek the great Desire of nations,
Ye have seen His natal star:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the new-born King.**

Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In His temple shall appear:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

Christmas Homily

Pastor Wendy Farber

Special Music

“To Touch His Tiny Hand”

Soloist: Roger Knisely

The Christmas Prayer

We come to you, O God, giving thanks for all the precious gifts we have received by your love. We celebrate once again the joy of receiving you, born again into our lives.

The lights on the trees and in our homes reflect dimly the light of your grace that fills our souls. We thank you that in Jesus Christ our hope is renewed, that peace and justice will come for all people.

Re-create us in your likeness, O God. Give us the will to venture forward boldly in defense of those who cannot defend themselves - the poor, the sick, the rejected, and the imprisoned. Re-shape our hearts and minds that in us all may see your likeness. Renew us in your service, that we may love and serve you as we ought.

We trust in your grace and the promise of your presence. God with us, grant us mercy that we may be merciful. Send us into your world in the power and strength of your majesty, that we may spread the good news with joy. Amen.

Special Music

“Ding Dong Merrily on High”

Pianist: Aaron Reynolds

* *Candle Lighting Service*

It is God's gift of love to us this Christmas. Tonight, we see his light shining in the darkness. Tonight, we hear his word, the word made flesh, piercing the silence. Tonight, the boundaries of darkness are pushed back. A light shines in the darkness. A light shines from Bethlehem's stable. A light shines in our hearts. And the darkness is powerless to extinguish it.

Lights are dimed, Bringing forth the light of the Christ candle.

The Lord's Prayer

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

* *Candlelight Carol*

"Silent Night"

**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!**

**Silent Night! Holy Night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**Silent Night! Holy Night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light.
With the angels let us sing
Al-le-lu-ia to our King.
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!**

**Silent Night! Holy Night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth. Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

* *Benediction*

In the beginning, the Word;
the Word was in God's presence,
and the Word was God.

The Word was present to God from the beginning.

Through the Word all things came into being....

In the Word was life, and that life was humanity's light-
a Light that shines in the night,

a Light that the night has never overtaken.

Go forth to witness to the Light, to the Word,

to the Glory of God dwelling in us;

Go forth to live in grace and truth.

Thanks be to God!

* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*

TH # 558