

Fourth Sunday of Advent ... LOVE

December 22, 2019

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS AND THANKSGIVINGS

PRELUDE ... "Away in a Manger".....Charlotte Smith

OPENING PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER.....Pastor and Congregation

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH..... Tina, Brennan and Hollis Cripps

CHORAL RESPONSE... "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" Congregation

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON ... *Luke 1:5-13*..... Reggie Jackson

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. ⁷But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

⁸Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, ⁹he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. ¹⁰Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. ¹¹Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹²When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. ¹³But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John.

HYMN ... "Angels from the Realms of Glory" 126

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE..... Rebecca Blake

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Lord God, as we begin to prepare our hearts to receive the One whom you are sending, forgive us for all the times we have missed seeing you in our midst, for all the times we have doubted your presence, and for all the times we have failed to help others find their way. Forgive us, in the name of Jesus, the One who is coming. Amen.

Hear the Good News, in the name of Jesus, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus, you are forgiven.

MORNING PRAYER Pastor

OFFERTORY HYMN ... "The First Noel" ... *vs. 1, 2 and 4* 124

OFFERTORY PRAYER..... Usher

OFFERTORY ... *please use special envelopes for local missions Christmas offerings*

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON...*Luke 1:57-80*..... Molly Abbott

THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. ⁶⁰But his mother said, "No; he is to be called John." They said to her, "None of your relatives has this name." Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, "What then will this child become?" For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

ANTHEM ... "Angels Are Making Their Rounds".....Choir

SERMON.....Rev. Josh Powers

CLOSING HYMN ... "Child in the Manger" ... *vs. 1 and 3*..... 112

BENEDICTION Pastor

SHARING LOVE AND PEACE

POSTLUDE

CALENDAR

TODAY

6:00 PM ... CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT

followed by Church-wide Christmas Party...

please bring Christmas goodies to share!

TUESDAY

5:30 PM.....Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

