

First Church in Pembroke
Order Of Worship
3rd Sunday in Advent
12/17/2023

PRELUDE: Silent Meditation

MEDITATION PRAYER: (Micah 5:1-2)

“But thou Bethlehem Ephrathah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel, whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.”

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS: speak loudly!

GREET YOUR CHURCH FAMILY:

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF JOY:

By: Adrianna Palmer: (Adrianna will first light the pink candle and then light two purple candles.)

CALL TO WORSHIP:

P: Precious worshippers of God, out of Bethlehem came joy; out of Bethlehem Judah came a little stranger on a cold and wintry night.

C: Bethlehem, though small among the other cities, was not overlooked. For out of tiny things, God saw it fit to make great things come through.

P: Precious worshippers of God, it is right to gather to worship. Therefore, arise and bless the Lord! Let us bless his name at all times.

C: The Christmas Story, as told for centuries, is still vibrant, and we are learning about a Savior who came to earth to save us. We who were dead in our trespasses have been redeemed by God.

P: Yes, Emmanuel, the Christ-child, came to this world to save us. Thanks be to God!

ALL: The joy of the Lord is our strength. God will make us experience a great excellency and become a joy to many people. Amen.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION:

In the cold of winter and the flickering of Christmas lights, may we find joy. At the Holiday festivities and the many gatherings, may we also find joy. To those who are in distress and experiencing challenging circumstances, Father, lend us your heart at least for a moment's time as we try to reach out to the many who are left hopeless, unwelcome, and doubting this Christmas Season.

Father, as we seek your presence among us, let your joy be our joy. Inspire us to give to the poor and to love all people because their joy matters, too! Then, in the silence of the night and in the dawning of a new day, may we all

wake up to experience your joy and your eternal blessings trickling down on us forever and ever. Amen.

CALL TO PRAISE & GLORIA PATRI:

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up unto the Lord.

O Lord, open Thou our lips.

And our mouths shall show forth Thy praise.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son,

And to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning,

Is now and ever shall be,

World without end. Amen.

READING & SERMON: [Matthew 2:1-6](#)

“An Earthly King versus The Heavenly King”

by Rev. Miriam Theodore

HYMN: R#141 [The First Nowell](#) (Vs. 1, 2, 3)

HYMN: R#143: [We Three Kings of Orient Are](#) (Vs.1,2,3)

OFFERTORY INVITATION: (John 6:33-35)

“For the bread of God is he who came down from heaven and gave life unto the world...Jesus said: “I am the bread of life; those who come to me will never hunger, and those who believe in me will never thirst.”

OFFERTORY PRAYER: (Pastor)

DOXOLOGY: R#515 [Praise God Whom Blessing Flow](#)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him, all creatures here below.

Praise God above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: (Pastor)

SILENT PRAYER:

PASTORAL PRAYER:

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, deliver us from evil, for Thine is the Kingdom and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

MUSICAL RESPONSE: (Musical Interlude)

HYMN: B#133 [O Little Town of Bethlehem](#)

BENEDICTION:

May the Lord watch between me and thee while we are absent one from the other Amen.

POSTLUDE: (Contemplative Music)