

First Church in Pembroke
Sunday Service

The 3rd Sunday After Easter

10^{0th} Sunday after Pentecost

December 24, 2023, 10:00 AM

Order of Worship

'A Microscopic view of the Manger'

By: Reverend Miriam Theodore

PRELUDE: Silent Meditation (Contemplative Music)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS: (For any congregant, please speak loudly!)

Greet your Church Family: Please turn to your left and right to meet fellow members of FCIP.

MEDITATION PRAYER: (Jeremiah 32:17a-18,22)

"Ah, Lord God!... You show loving-kindness unto thousands, and you recompense the iniquity of the fathers into the bosom of their children after them; the Great, the Mighty God, the Lord of hosts, is his name. And hast given them this land, which thou didst swear to their fathers to give them, a land flowing with milk and honey."

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF LOVE

(Candles will be lighted in this order: First, the purple candle with the unit mesh, then two purple candles, and then the pink).

CALL TO WORSHIP:

P: Worshipers of God, love came down at Christmas, and may God's love rain on us this day!

C: On this blessed Christmas Eve morning, we know not what tomorrow will bring, but right now and happening in this minute, we are counted as the righteousness of God in Christ!

P: This minute, we are receivers of the wonders of His love. So, hear the word of the Lord, my people, "the Spirit and the bride say, Come, and all who is thirsty come," and be blessed with God's love.

C: The angels sang "Hosanna to the King," and today we join in the everlasting song in reverence to the Holy One who once upon a time was the babe in the manger.

ALL: Bethlehem is far away from us this morning, but in faith and love, we join in the celebration of Mary and Joseph's baby boy, whom we believe is the Savior of the whole world! Amen.

OPENING HYMN: HYMN: #125 (Black Hymnal) "Angels We Have Heard on High"

PRAYER OF INVOCATION: (Psalm 121)

"I will lift up my eyes unto the hills. From whence cometh our help? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not suffer your foot to be moved; he who keepeth you will not slumber. Behold, he who keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is thy keeper; the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will preserve you from all evil; he will preserve your soul. The Lord will preserve your going out and your coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore." Amen.

ALL TO PRAISE: (Congregation in BOLD)

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.

GLORIA PATRI (Sung in Unison)

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. Amen

SCRIPTURE READING: Genesis 3:15

SERMON: 'A Microscopic view of the Manger' (by Rev. Miriam Theodore)

HYMN: #122: (Red Hymnal) "God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen" (Verses 1, 2 & 3)

HYMN: #146: (Red Hymnal) "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks" (Verses, 1, 2, & 3)

OFFERTORY INVITATION: (Micah 4:1)

"But in the last days, it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills, and the people shall flow into it." (Ushers Will Pass The Collection Plates)

DOXOLOGY: #515 (Red Hymnal) "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.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (Pastor)

A TIME OF 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:

CLOSING HYMN: (See Insert) "Ding! Dong! Merrily on High"

BENEDICTION: (In Unison) May the Lord watch between me and thee while we are absent one from the other. Amen.

POSTLUDE: (Contemplative Music)