

Chattanooga Valley Presbyterian Church

Order Of Worship | Advent III

December 13, 2020

Liturgist: David Marr | Sermon: Rev. Dennis Louis | Lead Musician: Scott Finch

Advent III Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem. "Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach. Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes," says the Lord.

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

Call To Worship: Psalm 35:27-28

L: Let those who delight in my righteousness shout for joy and be glad and say evermore, "Great is the Lord, who delights in the welfare of his servant!"

ALL: Then my tongue shall tell of your righteousness and of your praise all the day long.

L: This is the Word of the LORD!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Opening Hymn: Hark the Herald Angels Sing! | 203

1. Hark! the herald angels sing: "Glory to the newborn King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, offspring of a Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Pastoral Prayer Followed by 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, for ever. Amen.

Testimony From a CVPC Family

Song of Preparation: What Child Is This? | 213

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the Son of Mary.

2. Why lies he in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you:
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the Son of Mary.

3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise a song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby:
joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the Son of Mary

Sermon: "The Savior That Brings Justice to the World"

Word: Isaiah 11:1-16

1 There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. **2** And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. **3** And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, **4** but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. **5** Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

Questions for Reflection

1. What does the Bible mean when it talks about justice?
2. Is there a difference between biblical justice and our modern day understanding of justice? Are there similarities?
3. In Isaiah 11:3-4, it mentions that the Messiah will not judge with eyes or ears, but in righteousness, What does it mean to judge in righteousness (vs. 4)?
4. How does the fear of the Lord (vs. 3) help us to both have wisdom and judge rightly?
5. Mother Theresa stated that justice without love is not justice. (And) Love without justice is not Love. Christ certainly lived out this principle. Why is both love and justice necessary?
6. In the Screwtape Letters, Screwtape encourages Wormwood to not promote justice and charity among men. What is the opposite of justice and charity and what kind of society would that produce?
7. How can the church model biblical justice in the world today?

Song of Approach: Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross | 264 (Stanzas 1, 3)

1. Jesus, keep me near the cross; there a precious fountain, free to all— a healing stream— flows from Calv'ry's mountain. In the cross, in the cross, be my glory ever; till my raptured soul shall find rest beyond the river.
3. Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me; help me walk from day to day with its shadow o'er me. In the cross, in the cross, be my glory ever; till my raptured soul shall find rest beyond the river.

Communion

Sending Hymn: It Came Upon the Midnight Clear | 200

1. It came upon the 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold,,
when with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold;
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

Benediction: Romans 15:5-6

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ... *so that all the peoples will say...*

ALL: Amen. Our LORD is faithful. Praise the LORD!

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