Fourth Sunday of Advent
10:00 a.m. December 24, 2023

Entering God's Presence

Welcome, Life in the Community, and Ritual of Friendship

*Hymn 119 ***Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*** MENDELSSOHN

*Expressing Our Anticipation

Leader: As quietly as the winter steals upon us, the season of joy approaches.
People: We wait for our Redeemer, for God's promise to be fulfilled.
Leader: The day is coming quickly. The God of mercy draws near.
People: Therefore we wait with joy, attentive to all the signs of his coming.
(Congregation seated.)

Introit *Silent Night, Holy Night* (Hymn 122) STILLE NACHT
Henry Cecil, *vocal* and Noah Parker, *guitar*

Invitation to Self-Examination and Confession of Our Need for God's Forgiveness (unison)

God, with unhurried gentleness you draw near us, bidding us lift our eyes to the infinite stars and open them to ordinary wonders all around us. We see the waning sun, the dazzle of holiday display, each other's weary faces, and we know that we have seen this all before. We cannot claim a breathless anticipation of the birth of your Son. From the prophet's good news to the shepherd's joyful witness, we have heard it all before. The season is familiar and holds no surprises. God, remind us that your power and love are both ancient and ever new. Help us to recognize the love borne into the world at each moment. Then with glad hearts may we welcome your Son, before whom even the desert blooms and rejoices.

Time of Silence and Personal Confession

Musical Response ***What Child Is This*** GREENSLEEVES

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 the Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the son of Mary!

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Sacrament of Baptism Diana Heckart

*The Apostle's Creed (*Traditional Version*, Page 35) and ***Gloria Patri*** (No. 581)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Hymn 136 ***Go, Tell It on the Mountain*** GO TELL IT

I Samuel 16:1-7, 10-12 (NRSV) [You will find the text on page 248 in the pew Bible.]

Anthem

Luke 2:8-20 (NRSV) [You will find the text on page 54-55 in the pew Bible.]

Sermon ***Coming of the Light: The Shepherds*** The Rev. Vance Polley

Ministry of Prayer [Text prayer requests to: (843) 437-4239]

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Offertory

*At the Presentation ***Doxology*** (No. 606) OLD HUNDREDTH

Prayer of Dedication, concluding with *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.

*Hymn 143 ***Angels, from the Realms of Glory*** REGENT SQUARE

*Benediction and Choral Benediction ***While We Are Waiting, Come*** (Hymn 92)

*Going Out into the World

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*Those that are able, please stand.

We welcome Henry Cecil and Noah Parker to worship leadership.