



Mary: The Humble Seeker

December 20, 2020

Characters

Luke 1:46-55 ADVENT 4 "Joy"

Rev. Dr. Jim Glatz

Prelude

Angels we have heard on high

Celebration of Community

Welcome to live and online worship here at Saxe Gotha. For those here in person, we want to remind you to keep your masks on during the service to keep everyone healthy.

-Visitor Cards are located in the pews or available from the ushers. Please fill these in and place in the offering baskets as you leave.

- On Christmas Eve, we will have 3 services: 2 pm Outdoor, 4 pm Contemporary and 7 pm Traditional. The 4 pm service is at capacity.

- We will have 2 virtual worship services on December 27 available on the Saxe Gotha YouTube channel. There will be no in person worship that day and no Sunday School.

-We can also email the Advent devotional to you if you would like one.

-Thank you to all who donated poinsettias this year. The dedications will be on the screens at the end of the service.

Welcome New Members: Please join us in welcoming two new members, Michael and Ellen Wright.

We Gather to Worship

Advent Candlelighting Song and Readings

Light the candle of Joy

Fourth Candle - The Candle of Joy (Pink candle)

Leader: Last Sunday we lit the Candle of Love. We light it and the Candles of Hope and Peace again as we remember that Jesus, born in Bethlehem, will come again to fulfill all of God's promises and bring us everlasting peace and joy.

(A person lights the Hope, Peace, and Love Candles)

Leader: Today we light the Fourth Candle of Advent, the Candle of Joy. When the angel Gabriel told Mary that a special child would be born to her she was filled with joy. She sang a song that began with the words: "My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. Just as the birth of Jesus gave great joy to his mother, so his presence in the world gave joy to those who had none before. He healed them and gave them hope and peace when they believed in him. From hope, peace, and love grows joy. We light the Candle of Joy to remind us that when Jesus is born in us we have joy and that through him there will be everlasting joy on earth.

(A person lights the Fourth Candle the Candle of Joy)

Leader: Joy is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at this candle we celebrate the joy we find in Jesus Christ.

Leader: Let us pray: Thank you God for the joy you give us. We ask that as we wait for all your promises to come true, and for Christ to come again, that you would remain present with us. Help us today, and everyday to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your joy with each other. We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. Amen.

Opening Hymn

#259 Angels, from the realms of Glory

Prayer of Confession

O God, in the beginning you spoke, and creation was born, the object of your loving care. In the fullness of time you spoke, and the Word became flesh, Jesus, gift of your love. We wonder at the miracle of creation; we stand in awe before the mystery of the incarnation. Forgive us earthbound creatures, feeble in faith, empty of hope, lacking in love. This year let the miracle and mystery of Christmas happen for us again. We wait upon you with ready hearts, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Matthew 1:20-21

New International Version

20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,[a] because he will save his people from their sins."

Affirmation of Faith

From the Scot's Confession

When the fullness of time came God sent his Son, his eternal wisdom, the substance of his own glory, into this world, who took the nature of humanity from the substance of a woman, a virgin, by means of the Holy Ghost. And so was born the "just seed of David," the "Angel of the great counsel of God," the very Messiah promised, whom we confess and acknowledge to be Emmanuel, true God and true man, two perfect natures united and joined in one person.

Advent song of celebration

"O little town of Bethlehem/What Child is this"?

Children's Message(Video)

Passing of the Peace

Advent Song of Joy

#251 "It came upon a midnight clear"

Offertory Prayer

Thank you to those who volunteered for Drive Thru Prayer and for those who brought donations for Harvest Hope Food Bank earlier this week.

Anthem(VIDEO)

"I wonder"

Advent Sermon Bumper

We Hear God's Word

Message

Mary: The Humble Seeker Luke 1:46-55

We Respond to God's Word

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Invitation and Benediction

Closing Hymn

#265 "The First Noel"

Postlude

Organ

The **Cradle Cross and Rosebud** in the Sanctuary this Sunday are in honor of Walker Allen Shirley born December 9, 2020, son of Collins and Abby Shirley and grandson of Chuck and Kathy Shirley.