



# THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

DECEMBER 24, 2023

# MORNING WORSHIP

THE SILENT MEDITATION UPON ENTERING THE SANCTUARY

*He lies in a manger but  
He holds the world in His hand;  
He is wrapped in swaddling clothes  
but He clothes us with immortality;  
He does not find room in the inn  
but He makes a temple for Himself  
in the hearts of believers.  
For strength took on weakness  
that weakness might become strong.*

**AUGUSTINE, SERMON 190**



## APPROACHING GOD'S THRONE

The Christian Greeting and Call to Preparation

Rev. Kurt Cooper, *Assistant Minister*

The Prelude

*Christmas Carol Trilogy: My Dancing Day;  
Coventry Carol; Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*  
Michael Huff, *trumpet*

Gleen L. Rudolph

*Behold My servant, Whom I uphold, My chosen, in Whom My soul delights;  
I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations.  
He will not cry aloud or lift up His voice, or make it heard in the street;  
a bruised reed He will not break, and a faintly burning wick He will not quench;  
He will faithfully bring forth justice.*

*He will not grow faint or be discouraged till He has established justice in the earth;  
and the coastlands wait for His law.*

Isaiah 42:1-4

† Indicates the congregation standing

• Indicates seating for those detained

The Announcements

Rev. Bill Clark, *Interim Minister*

The Chiming of the Hour

The Choral Introit

*Gloria in excelsis Deo*

Franz Joseph Haydn

*Gloria in excelsis Deo* (Glory to God in the Highest!)

† The Call to Worship – Isaiah 25:9 (*congregation reads bold type*)

Hear God call us to worship through His word:

It will be said on that day, “Behold, this is our God;

**we have waited for Him, that He might save us.**

This is the LORD; we have waited for Him;

**let us be glad and rejoice in His salvation.”**

•† The Hymn No. 158

*Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

REGENT SQUARE

† The Apostles’ Creed – inside cover of *The Hymnal*

† The Prayer of Invocation

† The Lord’s Prayer

**Our Father Which art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in 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.**

•† The Doxology – No. 650 in *The Hymnal*

OLD HUNDREDTH

## SEEKING GOD'S FACE

The Call to Confession – Isaiah 53:6

All we like sheep have gone astray;  
we have turned—every one—to his own way;  
and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

The Silent Prayers of Confession

The Assurance of God's Pardon – John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son,  
that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

The Pastoral Prayer

• † The Hymn No. 159

*It Came upon the Midnight Clear*

CAROL

The Offering

*Each one must give as he has decided in his heart,  
not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

2 Corinthians 9:7

## HEARING GOD'S VOICE

The Anthem

*The First Nowell*

arr. Mack Wilberg  
Traditional English Carol

The first Nowell, the angel did say, was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Refrain:* Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell! Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star shining in the East beyond them far,  
And to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain.*

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord  
That hath made Heaven and earth of nought, and with His blood mankind hath bought. *Refrain.*

The Prayer for Illumination

Rev. Cooper

*If you are visiting today and do not own a personal copy of the Scriptures,  
please take one from the table in the narthex as our gift.*

All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field.

**The grass withers and the flowers fade,  
but the Word of our God shall stand forever. Amen.**

The Personal Meditation and Preparation of the Heart

*Children age four through kindergarten may leave to attend Children's Church. They may be  
picked up in Room E-100 (Pre-K4) and Room E-105 (Kindergarten) after the service.*

The Sermon

**A MESSAGE**

Rev. Cooper

The Closing Prayer

## **FOLLOWING GOD'S SPIRIT**

† The Hymn No. 157

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

GLORIA

† The Benediction of God's Grace

† The Threefold Amen – No. 657 in *The Hymnal*

The Postlude

*Postlude on HELMSLEY*

James Vivian

*They shall not hurt or destroy  
in all My holy mountain;  
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.*

Isaiah 11:9



**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT** ~ The Angels' Candle, lighted as the Festival of the Incarnation nears, reminds us of the angelic announcement and calls us to focus on Christ's finished work on the cross and to anticipate His second coming.

## SERMON NOTES

### I. The Shepherds

A. Their vocation

B. Their station

C. Their status

D. Their invitation

### II. The Angels

A. Their purpose

B. Their appearing

C. Their message

D. Their song

### III. So What?



*To* all who are spiritually weary and seek rest;  
to all who mourn and long for comfort;  
to all who struggle and desire victory;  
to all who sin and need a Savior;  
to all who are strangers and want fellowship;  
to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness;  
and to all who will come,  
this church opens wide her doors and offers welcome  
in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.



*A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)*

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