



FOUNTAIN HILLS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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*Our Vision: Growing in love for God and others we make disciples for Jesus.
Our Mission: Love God – Love People – Make Disciples.*

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT **December 22, 2024 – 9:00 AM**

PRELUDE

“And the Glory of the Lord”

G. F. Handel, Dorothy Parris, Piano

SILENT PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Come, Lord Jesus. We are expecting you to be here. Even so, surprise us. Move among us through your Holy Spirit today in such a way that makes it clear you are near.

WORDS OF WELCOME

Pastor Bob

CALL TO WORSHIP

Ilene Berg

Leader: This is the fourth Sunday of Advent, a time to rejoice in the wondrous things that God is doing.

People: Our hearts are filled with the hope that is coming into the world.

Leader: The time is fast approaching, not for parties or presence, but for the awareness of God’s loving gift to us--the gift of the Christ child.

People: Help slow us down, Lord, that we may realize that your gift of love is at the center of our lives and our celebrations.

Leader: Thanks be to God who again reminds us of God’s eternal love.

People: Open our hearts, O Lord, to receive your blessed gift. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Ilene Berg

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ever faithful to your promises and ever close to your church: the earth rejoices in hope of the Savior’s coming and looks forward with longing to his return at the end of time. Prepare our hearts and remove the sadness that hinders us from feeling the joy and hope that his presence will bestow, for he is Lord for ever and ever. Amen.

***HYMN OF ADVENT "Angels We Have Heard on High" #278**

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CALL TO CONFESSION

Ilene Berg

As God's beloved children, we are invited to come to our God with the fullness of our lives, to admit our love and our failures, to admit our faith and our fear. Trusting in God's mercy, let us make our confession. Please pray with me.

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS & RENEWAL

Ilene Berg

Holy God, hear our prayer. Sometimes our lives are a mess, because of choices we have made or because of choices others have made. Sometimes our lives are great, and we're kind and generous. Sometimes our lives are great, and we forget to be to grateful and humble. We trust that in the jumble of all of this, you are present. We trust that you are with us, walking with us when we stray, nudging us back to the right path, slowing us down when we get ahead of you, and waiting for us when we lag behind. So, we thank you, and ask for your forgiveness, and pray that you will stay with us throughout the journey. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Ilene Berg

(Please take a moment for personal confession). Friends in Christ, know this: the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting, and I remind you of this surpassing grace – in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Clif and Patti Backes

***HYMN OF ADVENT "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" #277**

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor Bob

SHARING OUR GIFTS

Pastor Bob

The one who shows sparingly will also reap sparingly; the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Responding to God's bountiful gifts to us in Christ, we have opportunity to share out of our abundance. (2 Cor. 9:6,8)

OFFERTORY**"He Shall Feed His Flock"**

George Frideric Handel, Jackie Miles- Mezzo Soprano, Mary Mack-Soprano

DOXOLOGY**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Ilene Berg

God of Glory, we eagerly anticipate the joy-filled celebration of Jesus' birthday party. We recall now in the quiet recesses of our minds the thrill of receiving your message of salvation. As we open ourselves again to this holy wonder, accept these generous gifts. May the ministries that these gifts support invite others to receive the saving message of the Christ Child. In His name, we pray as Jesus taught us, saying...Our Father...

THE LORD'S PRAYER*SCRIPTURE READING** Luke 1:26-38 (NIV)

Ilene Berg

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM**"Christmas Lullaby"**

by John Ritter, Celebration Singers

SERMON**"The Virgin Birth"**

Rev Dr Bob Simmons

(Series: "Meet Jesus: The Greatest Life Ever Lived")

CLOSING HYMN*"What Child Is This?"**

#281

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***BENEDICTION**

Pastor Bob

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE "Away in a Manger" #261 (v.1)**

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POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REMINDER: AFTER WORSHIP BIBLE CLASS

Immediately after worship, head to the Fellowship Center, grab a cup of coffee and some treats, and then join us in the Fireside Room. We listen to two presentations each week, totaling 45 minutes. Come join us!

Christmas Eve Service

Date: December 24

Time: 5:00 PM

Details: ***Invite neighbors and friends!***

New Elder and Deacon Orientation Class

Date: Monday, January 6

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: Fireside Room

New Member Class

Date: Saturday, January 18

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: Fireside Room

Ordination and Installation of Elders and Deacons

Date: Sunday, January 19

Time: During Morning Worship, 9:00 AM

Welcome New Members

Date: Sunday, January 26

Time: During Morning Worship, 9:00 AM



Chancel Flowers Given to the Glory of God...

In loving memory of sister, Carolyn

-Mary Ann & Roy Nickel