

Peace United Church of Church
4th Sunday of Advent
December 22nd, 2024
10:30am



Christmas
Cantata

The graphic features the word "Christmas" in a teal cursive font, with a teal treble clef integrated into the letter "t". Below it, the word "Cantata" is written in a red cursive font. The text is framed by teal musical notes and a decorative teal flourish that curves around the bottom and right sides.

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Prelude

Christmas Concerto, Arcangelo Corelli

Welcome and Announcements

Ringing of the Bells

*Call to Worship

from *Psalm 80*

Restore us, O God,

Let your face shine!

Save us from fear and for love,

Let your face shine!

Cast out our anger and our shame,

Let your face shine!

Let us worship God.

*Song

Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

#117 NCH

***Lift up your heads, O mighty gates; behold the glorious Ruler waits!
The Sovereign One is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.***

***Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart
From earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.***

***Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to you; here, Christ, abide!
Let me your inner presence feel; your grace and love in me reveal.***

***So come, my Sovereign; enter in! Let new and nobler life begin;
Your Holy Spirit guide us on, until the glorious crown be won.***

*Lighting the Fourth Advent Candle

Cheong Soon, Paul, & Olivia Gan, and Jennifer Lien

Introit

***This joy I have, the world didn't give it to me,
This joy I have, the world didn't give it to me,
This joy I have, the world didn't give it to me,
No, the world didn't give it, the world can't take it away.***

Reader: Today is the fourth Sunday in Advent. Today we light the candle of love. There are so many ways to practice love: sending cards, making phone calls, reaching out with texts. We can listen attentively to someone's story about their life and feel empathy with them. We can advocate for justice and save a place at the table for a friend we haven't met yet. When we act in loving ways, we bring God's love into the world.

Song

***This love I have, the world didn't give it to me,
This love I have, the world didn't give it to me,
This love I have, the world didn't give it to me,
No, the world didn't give it, the world can't take it away.***

*Passing of the Peace

Story for All Ages

Amanda McElray Hunter

Sending the Children *Danse des Mirlitons* from *The Nutcracker*, Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:39-55

Rene Montgomery, reader

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

and my spirit rejoices in God
my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the
lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations
will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great
things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the
thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful
from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with
for good things,
and sent the rich away empty. od live
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy, so
according to the promise he made to
our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants
forever."

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

Gloria, Antonio Vivaldi

Choir

Glory in the highest to God. And on earth peace.

Introduction to *A Modern Day Mary and Joseph*, adapted from a piece by Scott Simon

Laudamu Te, Antonio Vivaldi

Jennifer Lien and Gudrun Witrak

We praise thee. We bless thee.

Part I: Joseph and Mary Travel

O Magnum Mysterium, Tomas Luis de Victoria

Choir

*O great mystery,
and wonderful sacrament,
that animals should see the newborn Lord,
lying in a manger!
Blessed is the virgin whose womb
was worthy to bear
the Lord, Jesus Christ.
Alleluia!*

Part II: The Holy Family Arrives; A Baby is Born

Sweet Was the Song the Virgin sang, Alfred Burt

Jennifer Boyle

Part III: The Stars

Lux Aurumque, Eric Whitacre

Choir

*Light,
warm and heavy as pure gold
and angels sing softly
to the new-born babe.*

Part IV: The Reason

I Wonder as I Wander, John Jacob Niles

Jennifer Lien

Part V: A New World

His Light in Us, Kim Andre Arnesen

Choir

Prayers of the People & The Prayer of Jesus

Our Father and Mother, 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, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Choral Amen

Meditation

One Minute Pause, op. 36, Wendy Durrwachter

Offertory

For Unto Us, George Frideric Handel

Choir

*Doxology

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above ye heavenly host,
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen!***

*Prayer of Dedication

*Song

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

see insert

*Benediction

Postlude

Assisting in Today's Service:

Cindy Macaulay, Greeter
Matt Prois and Warren Post, Ushers

Choir:

Sopranos: Cathy Ameal, Cathy Wood, Penny Cragun, Jennifer Boyle, Mary Pat Renaud, Patty Beech Dziuk, Judy Seliga-Punyko, Carol Johnston, Peggy Pearson **Altos:** Marge Anderson, Gudrun Witrak, Sharon Crosby, Cyndi Brown, Phyllis Mead, Kelli Connell, Janell Kohls **Tenors:** Carrie Kelsey, Zachary Campbell, Andy Fena, Mike Swanoski **Bass:** Kirby Wood, Kyle Landwehr, John Ameal, Wayne Pearson, Pawel Waszczuk

Orchestra:

Violin: Emily Ramsey, Kailyn Pelerin, Eli Bissonett **Viola:** Ron Kari **Cello:** Byron Klimek **Bass:** Tim Churchill **Flute:** Kim Anderson, Melanie Sever, Cyndi Brown **Horn:** Deb Rausch **Trombone:** Dale Shimmin **Percussion:** Ian Connell **Piano/Harpsichord/Composer:** Wendy Durrwachter

Narration: Corinne Freedman Ellis and Amanda McElray Hunter

Peace United Church of Christ Staff

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Bri Dornbush - Office Coordinator

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