

December 20th Bulletin

Prelude and Announcements (will be on Facebook Live screen)

Lighting of the 4th Advent Candle Pam and Roger Dobbins

Call to Worship:

Pastor: Clap your hands, all you peoples;

People: Shout to God with loud songs of joy.

Pastor: For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome,

People: A great king over all the earth.

Opening Hymn #171 *“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”*

Opening Prayer and Prayer of Confession

Apostles’ Creed

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 from the dead;

he ascended into heaven and sitteth at 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.

Special Music: *“Bethlehem Morning”* Becky Gillaugh

Scripture: Luke 1:26-38 NT page 56

Sermon: The Lord Is With You

Time of Prayer and 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.

Closing Hymn #173 *“O Come, All Ye Faithful”*

Offering Reminder (*online giving is available at www.cedarvilleunited.org*)

Benediction

Postlude

Sermon Notes:

Introduction

- We put valuables behind glass – don't touch. We don't want chips or cracks or for things we value to be broken.
- Do we keep our faith behind glass? We have it just the way we want it, displayed perfectly, and don't touch it or question or challenge it. Or is our faith ordinary, used daily, and does it have some chips and cracks and worn spots on it because we depend on it so much?
- Luke 1 is a chapter of questioning and challenging. It is full of discomfort, but it is also full of people willing to obey God at whatever cost.

Background of Passage

- Second visit in Luke from Angel Gabriel – first is Zechariah and Elizabeth
- Elizabeth and Zechariah were beyond childbearing years. When he was serving in the temple the angel Gabriel came to tell Zechariah that they were going to have a son. John the Baptist, who was Jesus' cousin.
- The second visit by the angel Gabriel was this one.
- Rev. Matthew Newsome: *Betrothal in ancient Judaism was a temporary period (up to one year) between the covenant of marriage itself and the time when spouses lived together. Because couples were legally married during this intervening phase, a betrothal could be terminated only by death or divorce.*
- This couple challenged the status quo.
- Mary was obedient even though she knew it would cost her.

For Us Today

- Questioning...Do we believe everything we are told or do we search the scriptures to find answers?
- Challenging...Are we willing to challenge ourselves next year? Are we willing to let God challenge attitudes in our hearts and our lives? Are we willing to let God challenge the sin in us, and are we willing to repent?
- Discomfort...Faith is uncomfortable. It's worn, it's chipped, it's scarred, it's glued back together, sometimes it is held together with duct tape. What might God be calling us to that is uncomfortable, requires sacrifice on our parts, requires us to get out from behind the glass?

Consider calling someone in the congregation or making a small group on Zoom to discuss further. This is one way we can stay more connected as a congregation right now.

Questions To Discuss:

1. What is God calling you to do that is causing discomfort? (Examples: Forgiving someone? Spending more time in scripture/prayer? Trusting Him with something you would rather hold on to?)
2. What makes it uncomfortable?
3. What will it "cost" you if you do it?
4. What would be the benefits if you followed God's call?
5. What is one step of faith you can take right now to follow God's call?

Opening Hymn #171 *“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”*

Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King:
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with th’angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin’s womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th’incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”

Closing Hymn #173 *“O Come, All Ye Faithful”*

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

True God of true God, Light from Light eternal,
lo, he shuns not the virgin’s womb;
Son of the Father, begotten, not created;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
“Glory to God, all glory in the highest”;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.