

Fincastle Presbyterian Church

Advent Lighting Service – Week 4

December 17, 2020 – 5:00pm – Live Streaming



Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days

Readers: Dot Langford and Leigh Anne Martin

Musician: Robert McRae & Evelyn Renshaw

Prelude: “To God We Render Thanks and Praise”

J.S. Bach
Evelyn Renshaw, Organist

Opening & Candle Lighting:

Dot Langford & Leigh Anne Martin

Scripture: Luke 1:13-20

Leigh Anne Martin

But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” Zechariah said to the angel, “How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.” The angel replied, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.”

Special Music: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Robert McRae, soloist

Reading 1:

Dot Langford

Congregational Hymn: #135

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear Desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.

2 Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king, born to reign in us for ever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

Reading 2:

Dot Langford

Special Music: “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent”

Robert McRae, soloist

Reading 3:

Dot Langford

Congregational Hymn: #172

“While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks”

1 While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground, an angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around.

6 “All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace; to those on whom his favor rests goodwill shall never cease.”

Prayer:

Leigh Anne Martin

Let us pray: Ever-listening God, I surrender the dreams I hold in my heart, dreams that are new and dreams that have been way overdue in coming true. Grant me a sense of peace as I wait to see how you will answer me. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.

Benediction:

The Rev. Dr. David Dickerson, D.Min

Postlude: “Prelude in C Major”

J.S. Bach

I will Light Candles This Christmas

by: Howard Thurman

I will Light candles this Christmas,
Candles of joy despite all the sadness,
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,
Candles of Courage for fears ever present,
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,
Candles of love to inspire all my living,
Candles that will burn all year long.

Next Thursday, the 5th week of Advent, is Christmas Eve. The service will be Facebook Live stream at 5 am on December 24. Since this is traditionally a candle lighting service, please have a candle in your home to light as David gives instructions to do so during the end of the service.