

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT
DECEMBER 15, 2013



Nativity, by Piero della Francesca
1470-1475
Oil on wood

Piero has set the Christmas story in his own time. The flat land on top of the hill where they stand evokes Tuscany, as does the winding valley to the left. Meanwhile the skyline on the right, dominated by the basilica, could almost be the outskirts of Piero's home town, Borgo Sansepolcro. The painting shows the impact of Northern European painting. Piero painted with tempera early in his career, but for later works like this one he began working in oil. Along with the use of brown under-painting for the figures, this shows a familiarity with Netherlandish and Flemish work. This is reinforced by the slim figure of Christ, who lacks the square muscularity of contemporary depictions from Italy, and is more reminiscent of paintings by artists like Hugo van der Goes. Piero has also experimented with perspective. It is the only one of his works that shows a building askew from the rest of the composition: this is the simple shed, which reminds the viewer of Christ's humble beginnings. It is possible that this panel was never completed. It has certainly been damaged, possibly by the work of a 19th-century restorer. Nevertheless, the painting holds more than enough detail to give a sense of a complete composition, one which is likely to have been among the last the artist created.

Source: Wikipaintings.org

WE GATHER

OPENING VOLUNTARY

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

ARR. LANI SMITH

CHIME PEAL

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

ISAIAH 35:1-10

On this third Sunday of Advent we light the candle of **Joy**. Our excitement increases: Christ is coming! Those desert places in our lives, like wilting flowers, will bloom again. We will be made strong. We will not be fearful. God remembers us. Sorrow and sighs will end. Joy and gladness will blossom. Let us pray.

Holy God, may this candle we light remind us that our journey toward the promise continues: Come, Lord Jesus! Help us to bring your Good News to others so that your joy will illuminate the world around us. Today and everyday, let us walk in the light of the Lord. Amen.

SONG RESPONSE (HYMN 127)

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING (JESUS, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD) WE'LL WALK IN THE LIGHT

We'll walk in the light, beau - ti - ful light.
Come where the dew - drops of mer - cy shine bright.
O, shine all a - round us by day and by
night. Je - sus, the light of the world.

* Whenever you see this symbol, please stand if you are able.

The word *cantata* comes from the Italian word *cantare*, which means "to sing." The earliest cantatas date from 17th century Italy. They were for solo voice, in several movements, with the text based on secular or sacred subjects. The genre spread to 18th century Germany and France, and composers in those countries wrote cantatas based on the Italian style in their native languages. Over time, the cantata evolved into a composition which included soloist(s), chorus, and orchestra.

CHIME PEAL

*OPENING HYMN 110

LOVE HAS COME

BRING A TORCH

*CALL TO CONFESSION

MATTHEW 3:2-3

A voice is crying out in the wilderness: Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

UNISON

Holy God, we confess that we do not walk in your light. We praise the high and mighty and look down upon the lowly. We have great faith in human efforts and little patience for your way. Forgive us; deliver us; strengthen our hearts by your Spirit, so that we may be ready to greet the Savior you send, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS (BASED ON ISAIAH 35: 1, 10)

Leader: The wilderness will rejoice; the dry land will blossom. The people of God will return with joy and singing.

People: Thanks be to God.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you!

People: And also with you!

Leader: Let us greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

*JOYFUL RESPONSE HYMN 137

HE CAME DOWN

HE CAME DOWN

Children are always welcome in worship at Faith Des Peres. Nursery Care (ages 4 & under) and Sunday School (K-5th Grade) are available **after the Joyful Response**. Kids, invite your friends to join you!

He came down that we may have { love; } { peace; } { joy; } he

came down that we may have { love; } { peace; } { joy; } he came down that we may

have { love, } { peace, } { joy; } Hal-le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.

Leader: Why did he come?

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

FIRST LESSON

THE TEMPTATION STORY

ANNE EPLING

GENESIS 3:1-11

CHORAL ANTHEM

A PRAYER FOR ADVENT

SECOND LESSON

THE CALL OF ABRAHAM

BARB ABBETT

GENESIS 12:1-3

CHORAL ANTHEM

PEOPLE OF PROMISE, ARISE

THIRD LESSON

CHRIST'S BIRTH AND KINGDOM FORETOLD

WILL RIDLEY

ISAIAH 9:2,6-7

CHORAL ANTHEM

SONGS OF HOPE AND JOY

FOURTH LESSON

CHRIST'S BIRTH AND KINGDOM FORETOLD

MINNA ONKEN

ISAIAH 11: 1-2

* HYMN 121

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM (SING VERSES 1, 3, AND 4)

ST. LOUIS

FIFTH LESSON

THE ANGEL GABRIEL VISITS MARY

DIANNE MODRELL

LUKE 1:26-35, 38

CHORAL ANTHEM

MY SOUL DOETH MAGNIFY THE LORD

SIXTH LESSON

THE BIRTH OF JESUS

JOE MARTING

LUKE 2:1-7

CHORAL ANTHEM

LULLABIES OF BETHLEHEM

SEVENTH LESSON

THE BIRTH OF JESUS

JOE MARTING

LUKE 2:8-20

* HYMN 113

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH (SING VERSES 1 AND 2, INTERLUDE, SING VERSE 3)

GLORIA

EIGHTH LESSON

THE MYSTERY OF THE INCARNATION

JULIA EPLING

JOHN 1:1-5

CHORAL ANTHEM

LET CHRISTMAS BEGIN

Joseph M. Martin (b. 1959) is the composer of *A Celebration of Carols*, the cantata presented today. With over 1200 published compositions to his credit, he is one of the foremost writers of Christian music today. He also serves as Director of Sacred Publications for Shawnee Press and frequently travels to lead clinics for church musicians.

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) is perhaps the most prominent composer of cantatas. Bach wrote both secular and sacred cantatas. His sacred cantatas, numbering over 200, were primarily composed for occasions of the Lutheran liturgical year.

WE RESPOND

PASTORAL PRAYER

SILENT PRAYER

PRAYERS OF PETITION (congregation responds "Lord, hear our prayers.")

PASTORAL 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.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

(PLEASE SIGN THE FRIENDSHIP PAD.)

OFFERTORY MUSIC

WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

ARR. SHANNON M. GRAMA

*DEDICATION OF GIFTS

CHRISTMAS DOXOLOGY

O TANNENBAUM



Praise God from whom all blessings flow, in ev-ery gen-er - a - tion. Praise



God, all crea-tures here be-low, who gives to us sal - va - tion. Praise



God a - bove, ye heaven-ly host. Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Let



all cre - a - tion praise the Lord with love and ad - or - a - tion.

During Advent, the children will carry the Advent candles out of the Sanctuary at the end of the service to symbolize that we are sent to be Christ's Light in the world.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

WE ARE SENT

*CLOSING HYMN 123

IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR

CAROL

*BENEDICTION

*CLOSING MUSIC : A MEDLEY OF CHRISTMAS HYMNS

HYMN 134

JOY TO THE WORLD (SING VERSES 1 AND 2)

ANTIOCH

HYMN 147

THE FIRST NOWELL (SING VERSE 1)

THE FIRST NOWELL

INSTRUMENTAL INTERLUDE

HYMN 119

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING (SING VERSE 1, INTERLUDE, SING VERSE 3)

MENDELSSOHN

Faith Des Peres Welcomes You!

Find more information about the church on the "Together at Faith Des Peres" page.

Following the Closing Voluntary, please join us for refreshments in the Gathering Space at the front of the church.

Pastor:
Rev. Dr. Anne B. Epling

Director of Music & Organist:
Dr. Gay Holmes Spears

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