

# SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT  
DECEMBER 22, 2013



*The Nativity, or The Nativity with the Torch*, by the Le Nain brothers  
Oil on canvas  
Circa 17th century, France

The Le Nain brothers (circa 1588-1677) were three brothers best known for their paintings of peasant life. The work of Antoine, Louis, and Mathieu exhibits a realism unique in 17th-century French art. *A Blacksmith in His Forge* was one of the most-admired and most-copied paintings in the Louvre in the 19th century.

They remained unmarried and are traditionally said to have worked in harmony, often collaborating on the same picture. In 1648 all were received into the newly founded French Academy. The "Le Nain problem" of determining which of them painted what is complicated because no signed work bears a first initial and no work completed after 1648 is dated. Evaluation of the three personalities early in the 20th century was therefore based on what was traditionally known of each brother and on the dubious establishment of three stylistic groups. Art scholars today no longer try to attribute individual works, and the three brothers are treated as a single artist. Their domestic scenes of peasant life depict humble people with human dignity, with a classical composure that is characteristically French. (Source: *Encyclopaedia Britannica* online)

## WE GATHER

### PRELUDE

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH    A FIFTH ABOVE    ARR. KRIS DORSEY & BILL HOLCOMBE

### CHIME PEAL

### LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

ISAIAH 7:10-16, MATTHEW 1:18-25

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of **Love**. How may God's love take shape in our world? God's love takes shape in our world in dreams which move us to risk compassion and in a vision of a peace-filled community. We look for an extraordinary sign of hope for our world, but God's sign is most ordinary of all: A young woman is with child. We look to power for strength in our world but God points to the most vulnerable: She gives birth. We look far and wide for a key to God's mystery, but God points us home: She calls this child Immanuel, God with us! Let us pray:

**Come, Lord Jesus! Open our hearts to the love which you embody. Let that love flow through us so that it 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.

Special music today will be provided by members of *A Fifth Above*. They include Andrea Clark, flute, Cathy Woelbling-Paul, oboe, Katie Myler, clarinet, and Daniel Shavers, bassoon.

A special note of thanks to all of the people that have lit candles this Advent season and all who have assisted with the Chime Peals: Matthew Willock, James Dolley, Elias Klein, Charlotte Epling, Simonne Klein, Danny Mortimer, Samantha Stout, Katy Spears, Henry Epling, Tommy Epling, Margaret Onken, Kathy Sherrick, Rachel Neuner, Gay Spears, and Julia Epling. Thank you in advance to others who will be helping today and next weekend. And thank you to Samantha Stout, who has graciously loaned the chimes to us for the season.

# CHIME PEAL

## \*OPENING HYMN 132

*GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS, REJOICE*

IN DULCI JUBILO

## \*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 choose what is evil and refuse what is good. We scorn our neighbors and laugh at others' troubles. Forgive us; deliver us; let your face shine on us, so that we may be ready to meet our Immanuel, 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

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?

# WE PROCLAIM

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

ISAIAH 7:10-16

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

## CHOIR ANTHEM

*I SHALL KNOW HIM WHEN HE COMES*

BY DOUGLES E. WAGNER

## GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 1:18-25

Leader: Go and tell everyone what you have seen and heard: the broken are made whole, the dead are raised, and the poor receive good news.

People: Thanks be to God.

## SERMON

“WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM JOSEPH”

REV. DR. ANNE EPLING

Children are always welcome in worship at Faith Des Peres. Nursery Care (ages 4 & under), Sunday School (K-4th Grade), and Tweens Class (Grades 5-6) are available after the choir anthem. Kids, invite your friends to join you!

The Gospel of Matthew names four women in the genealogy of Jesus: Tamar, Rahab, “the wife of Uriah” (aka Bathsheeba) and Ruth. This is notable for two reasons: first, women were rarely, if ever, mentioned in a genealogy at the time Matthew wrote. And second, all of them were considered “outsiders”. Why do you think Matthew would include these four women in Jesus’ lineage? (Matthew 1:1-17)

# WE RESPOND

## \*HYMN 145

*WHAT CHILD IS THIS*

GREENSLEEVES

## 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

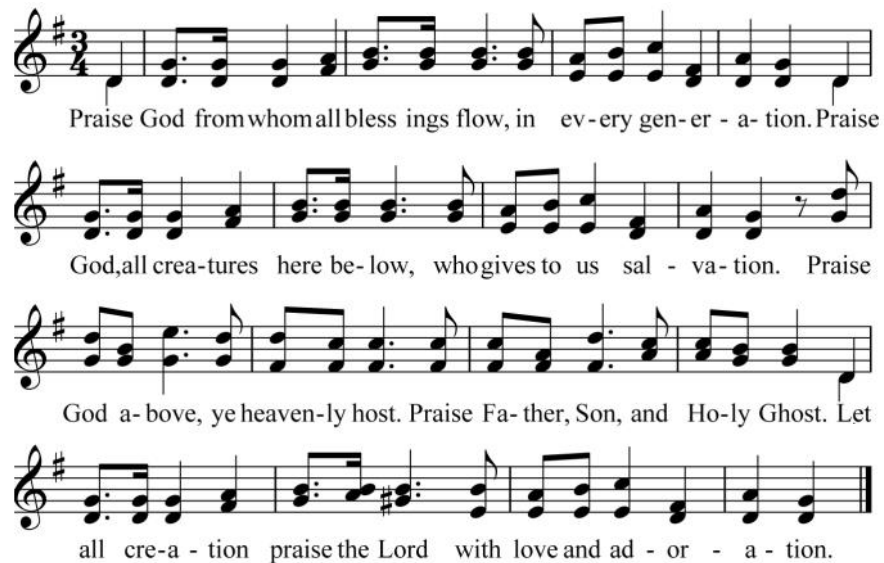
*O HOLY NIGHT*

ARR. DORSEY & HOLCOMBE

## \*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.

## \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

UNISON

Holy God, you bless us with many gifts, you retrieve us from despair and fear, you visit us with surprising proclamations, and you intend for us good things. We thank you for your steadfast love, for sending signs of assurance, and for the gift of faith. Use our gifts to bring comfort and justice to those in need, reforming the ways of our world for the sake of new life. Amen.

## WE ARE SENT

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.

## \*NEWS OF THE CHURCH

## \*CLOSING HYMN 136

GO, TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

GO TELL IT

## \*BENEDICTION

## \*POSTLUDE

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING  
JOY TO THE WORLD

ARR. DORSEY & HOLCOMBE  
ARR. DORSEY & HOLCOMBE

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