



## 4th Sunday of Advent Worship

*Carols by Request*

Timbrel & Lyre

\*Lighting of the Advent Candles: **Fourth Sunday** (*vision of the Old Testament Prophet Isaiah*)

Hong Yang  
Hao Xu

Leader: We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ,

*People: Advent means coming.*

Leader: We are preparing ourselves for the days when Nations shall beat their swords into iron plows,

*People: And their spears into pruning tools;*

Leader: Nation will not take up sword against nation,

*People: They will no longer learn how to make war.*

Leader: The wolf will live with the lamb,

*People: And the leopard will lie down with the young goat.*

Leader: The calf and the young lion will feed together,

*People: And a little child will lead them.*

Leader: The desert and the dry land will be glad;

*People: The wilderness will rejoice and blossom like the crocus.*

Leader: The Lord will give you a sign.

*People: The young woman is pregnant and is about to give birth to a son,*

Leader: And she will name him Immanuel, which means "God is with us".

*ALL: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.*

*\*Prayer of Invocation*

*\*Carol: #28*

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

*Children's Message*

"Missing Piece"

Hal Murry

*Anthem:*

"All is Well"

Timbrel & Lyre

*Sermon:* "Who Determines History?"

Hal Murry

1. The Beatles, Caesar Augustus and Jesus
2. Today's Scripture: **Luke 2:1-20**
3. Elements of Luke's amazing birth story

- Prophecy
- History
- Symbolism

*Scripture:* Luke 2:1-20

In those days **Caesar Augustus** declared that **everyone throughout the empire** should be **enrolled in the tax lists**. <sup>2</sup>This **first enrollment** occurred when **Quirinius** governed Syria. <sup>3</sup>Everyone went to **their own cities** to be enrolled. <sup>4</sup>Since Joseph **belonged to David's house and family line**, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to **David's city, called Bethlehem, in Judea**. <sup>5</sup>He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came

for Mary to have her baby. <sup>7</sup> She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and **laid him in a manger**, because **there was no place for them in the guestroom**.

<sup>8</sup> Nearby **shepherds** were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. <sup>9</sup> The Lord's **angel** stood before them, **the Lord's glory shone** around them, and they were terrified.

<sup>10</sup> The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I **bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people**. <sup>11</sup> Your **savior** is born today in **David's city**. He is **Christ the Lord**. <sup>12</sup> This is **a sign for you**: you will find **a newborn baby** wrapped snugly and **lying in a manger**." <sup>13</sup> Suddenly **a great assembly of the heavenly forces** was with the angel praising God. They said, <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors."

<sup>15</sup> When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go right now to **Bethlehem** and see what's happened. Let's confirm what the Lord has revealed to us." <sup>16</sup> They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and **the baby lying in the manger**. <sup>17</sup> When they saw this, **they reported what they had been told about this child**. <sup>18</sup> Everyone who heard it **was amazed at what the shepherds told them**. <sup>19</sup> **Mary committed these things to memory and considered them carefully**. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned home, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. **Everything happened just as they had been told**.

*\*Carol #59 vs. 1 - 4*

"While Shepherds Watched their Flocks"

*Offering*

*Offertory*

"Mary Did You Know"

Timbrel & Lyre

*\*Litany for Christmas*

Hal Murry

Leader: Keep awake. Stay alert. The Kingdom of God is near.

*People: We are God's partners in hope.*

Leader: The night is coming when God will fulfill the promise.

*People: With joyous expectation we watch for signs of God's coming.*

Leader: Our souls magnify the Lord, and our spirits rejoice in God.

*People: We trust in God's extravagant love.*

Leader: The Mighty One has done great things. Holy is God's name.

*People: Let Christ be born in us.*

Leader: All powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into the world brightens weary hearts with peace. Teach us to live in ways that proclaim the birth of your Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever...

*ALL: The 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.*

*\* Carol: #22*

"Angels from the Realms of Glory"

*\*Blessing*

*\*Sharing of Christmas Greetings*

CHANCEL FLOWERS are in honor of Howard & Dorothy McLean's 62nd Wedding Anniversary. Congrats!

PASTOR MURRY is on study leave until January 2. Thanks to Rev. Dr. Marsha Wilfong who has agreed to respond to requests for emergency pastoral care in Hal's absence. She may be reached through the church office, 563-583-1729 or at home 563-583-6571 (emergency only).