

**Service for the Lord's Day**  
**Paw Creek Presbyterian Church • December 20, 2020**  
Fourth Sunday of Advent



**Preparatory Music**

*Once in Royal David's City*

arr. Liz Story

**Welcome and Lighting of four Candles on the Advent Wreath**

*Grace be unto you, and peace, from the one who is and who was and who is to come,  
and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness. "I am the Alpha and the Omega", says the Lord God.  
Hallelujah!*

**Prelude**

*God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen*

arr. Ellen Foncannon

**Call to Worship**

from Isaiah 9

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
and they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death,  
upon them hath the light shined.  
For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,  
and the government shall be upon His shoulder;  
and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God,  
the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

**Hymn 88**

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, thou root of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell thy people save and give them victory o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;  
bid envy, strife and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

## Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy. Willingly, may we bear your redeeming love to all the world. For you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## Scripture Reading

Luke 1: 26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

## Hymn 98

*"To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary"*

*To a maid whose name was Mary, the angel Gabriel came.*

*"Fear not," the angel told her, "I come to bring good news;  
good news I come to tell you, good news, I say, good news."*

*"Fear not for God is with you, and you shall bear a child.*

*His name shall be called Jesus, God's offspring from on high.  
And he shall reign forever, forever reign on high."*

*As Mary heard the angel, she wondered at his words.*

*"Behold, I am your handmaid," she said unto her God.  
"So be it I am ready according to your word."*

## Sermon

*The Son of God comes near*

## Offertory Duet

*You Raise Me Up*

Josh Groban

Offerings for God's work through Paw Creek Church are gratefully received in the baskets by the entrance and exits to the sanctuary, or by mail to the church office.

## Prayers of God's People

Beginning with announcements and prayer concerns; and concluding with *The Lord's Prayer*

## Hymn 134

*"Joy to the World"*

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;*

*let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing . . .*  
*Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,*  
*while field and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy . . .*  
*He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove*  
*the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love . . .*

## **Charge and Benediction**

### **Postlude**

*Anthem for Christmas*

Michael W. Smith

*Elliott Hipp, Pastor • Mark Burlison, Pianist • Patrick McCarthy, Director of Music/Soloist*  
*Clint Shaw, Video and Streaming • Members of the Task Force for In-person Worship, Arrangements*

*Vocal duet • Julia and Sophia Leeman*

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**The Poinsettias in the Sanctuary Today are Given as Follows:**

**IN MEMORY OF:**

Joe Adkins  
John & Flossie Adkins  
Grady Alexander  
Glenn & Lorene Hawkins  
Evans & Lillie Johnston  
Evans & Lillie Johnston  
Jean Johnston  
Frank Kapelar  
Ronald & Susan Kenley  
Susan Kenley  
John Litaker  
Bill & Lib McArver  
Paul & Hannah McCord  
Betty Pinkston  
Phyllis & Gene Ramsey  
Reverend Richard D. Rettew  
Elizabeth Rettew  
Hugh & Burrell Ross  
Kay Scarce  
Jack & Katherine Sisk  
Libby Stogner  
David Ullem  
Marilyn Vane  
Margaret White  
Our Parents

**BY:**

Emily Adkins  
Emily Adkins  
Shelby Alexander & Stephanie Alexander  
Eddie & Jane McArver  
Emily Adkins  
Sonny & Angie Ross  
Hoyt Johnston & Family  
Larry & Vicki Ramsey  
The Children, Grands & Great Grands  
John & Linda Riggins  
Jim Pinkston & Family  
Eddie & Jane McArver  
Sam McCord  
Jim Pinkston & Family  
Larry & Vicki Ramsey  
Anna Rettew  
Anna Rettew  
Sonny & Angie Ross  
John, Jodi, Greyson & Graham  
George & Debbie Taylor  
Jim Stogner  
Barbara Ullem  
Barbara Ullem  
Frances Lyerly  
John & Linda Riggins

(Continued on other side)





**The Poinsettias in the Sanctuary Today are Given as Follows:**

**IN HONOR OF:**

Mark Burleson  
Margie Caudill  
Patty Echerd  
Nell & Elliott  
Patrick McCarthy  
Kenley McGee  
Dorsie White  
Children & Grandchildren  
Mark, Patrick & Choir Members we miss seeing  
First line workers during the Pandemic &  
researchers who found the vaccine for Covid-19

**BY:**

Frances Lyerly  
The Kines Family  
Shelby Alexander & Stephanie Alexander  
George & Debbie Taylor  
Frances Lyerly  
Nana  
Frances Lyerly  
Anne & Tommy Miller  
Anne & Tommy Miller  
Tim & Celia Gray

