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MT. LEBANON EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE**

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT ~ DECEMBER 5, 2021

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**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Pastor Carolyn Poteet

**PRELUDE**

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

Patricia Crosby

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLES**

MLEPC Family Members

Leader: Last week, we lit the first candle of Advent, the candle of Hope. The second candle of Advent witnesses to the peace that is ours in Jesus. We travel during these days to the stable and the manger where the One named the Prince of Peace is born.

**All: “But you, Bethlehem, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel” . . . and He will be their peace.**

Leader: He will stand and shepherd His flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord . . . and He will be their peace.

**All: They will live securely, for then His greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. And He will be their peace. (Micah 5:2-5)**

Leader: “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” (John 14:27)

**All: We now prepare our hearts again to celebrate the coming Prince of Peace.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**OPENING HYMN #259** (vv 1,2,4) “Angels From the Realms of Glory”

Cynthia Pratt

Angels from the realms of glory wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye, who sang Creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with man is now residing; yonder shines the Infant light:  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,  
Suddenly the Lord, descending, in His temple shall appear:  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

**CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**HYMN OF ASSURANCE #250** (vv. 1,2,3) “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Cynthia Pratt

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie.  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth  
And praises sing to God, the King, and Peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.  
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin  
Where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.

**CHILDREN ARE DISMISSED FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Micah 5:2 - 4  
Ruth 1:15 - 22

Pastor Carolyn

**SERMON**

“From Despair to Delight”

Pastor Carolyn

## PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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.

## CONFESSION OF FAITH: The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day, He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there, He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## SPECIAL MUSIC

"Winter Snow"

Worship Team

Could've come like a mighty storm  
With all the strength of a hurricane  
You could've come like a forest fire  
With the power of Heaven in Your flame

(But) You came like a winter snow  
Quiet and soft and slow  
Falling from the sky in the night  
To the earth below

Oh You could've swept in like a tidal wave  
Or an ocean to ravish our hearts  
You could have come through like  
a roaring flood

To wipe away the things that we've scarred

Ooh no, Your voice wasn't in a bush burning  
No, Your voice wasn't in a rushing wind  
It was still, it was small, it was hidden

## COMMUNION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastors Carolyn Poteet and Steve Aguzzi

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.

## CLOSING SONG

"Glory in the Highest"

Worship Team

You are the first  
You go before  
You are the last  
Lord, You're the encore

Your name's in lights  
For all to see  
The starry Host  
Declare Your glory

Glory in the highest  
Glory in the highest  
Glory in the highest

Apart from You  
There is no God  
Light of the world  
The Bright and Morning Star

Your name will shine  
For all to see  
You are the One  
You are my glory

And no one else could ever compare  
To You, Lord  
All the earth together declares

All the earth will sing Your praise  
The moon and stars, the sun and rain  
Every nation will proclaim  
That You are God, and You will reign

So Glory, glory, hallelujah  
Glory, Glory, to You, Lord  
Glory, glory, hallelujah  
Hallelujah

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

"The First Noel"

Patricia Crosby