

Fairlawn Christian Reformed Church

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 24, 2017 10:15 A.M.

PREPARATION AND PRAISE

Prelude: "What Child Is This?"
"The Birthday of a King"

arr. Smith, Hustad
Neidlinger/arr. Smith, Hustad

Welcome and Announcements

ENTER HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING

Advent Candle Lighting:

Reader 1: In this season of anticipation, our hearts are filled with love.

Reader 2: We love because God has first loved us.

Reader 1: This is how God showed his love for us:

Reader 2: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

Reader 1: How great is this love the Father has for us,

Reader 2: That we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

Reader 1: We worship today with humble gratitude and thanks,

Reader 2: Because God's love endures forever.

* Carol: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

PH 345

* God's Greeting:

Lift up your heads, O gates!

And be lifted up, O ancient doors that the King of glory may come in.

Grace and peace be to you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Praise be to God!

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who has visited and redeemed the people.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Blessed be the name of the Lord.

* Prayer of the Day:

Come, Lord, arouse our faith and call us back to yourself. Kindle our faith and seize our attention; prove to us how sweet and tender your love for us is. Let us love you and run to you. When we wander from you, may we hear your voice calling us back. Let no one and nothing bar the way to the fountain of life which we find in you. Speak to us, Lord, that we may hear the word and believe that you are the salvation of our souls. In Christ our Lord we pray, Amen.

Response: "Prepare the Way of the Lord"

CONFESSION AND PRAYER

Call to Confession

God's Will for Our Lives:

Ephesians 5:8–12, 15–20

Prayer of Confession:

based on Isaiah 60:1–3

Assurance of Pardon:

John 12:46

Response: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

ST. LOUIS

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.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

Congregational Prayer

Choral Anthem: "Were You There on That Christmas Night?"

Sleeth

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

* Carol: "Angels from the Realms of Glory"

PH 354, vv. 1–4

Prayer for Illumination

[Children age 3 - grade Pre-K may leave for Children's Church after the prayer.]

Scripture Reading:

Romans 16:25–27 (p. 1126)

Sermon: *God's Christmas Wisdom*

Prayer

* Carol: "Christians, Awake"

PH 350

OUR RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE

* Offertory Prayer

Offering: Fairlawn General Fund

Offertory: "Messiah Suite"

Handel/arr. Fettke

Response to Offering: "What Can I Give Him?"

CRANHAM

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: give him my heart.

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

- * Benediction: Revelation 1:5–6
To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! **Amen.**

- * Doxology: “Angels, from the Realms of Glory” PH 354, v. 5
Saints and angels join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore their voices raising to th’eternal Three in One:
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!

- * Postlude