ST. JOHN CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SUNDAY WORSHIP   DECEMBER 20, 2020   11:00 AM
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
REV. ADRIAN SCOTT

Prelude   St. John Band

Call to Worship (responsive)
    Brothers and sisters,
        Come, let us worship God
    who gives light to see the way. Come, let us worship God
        who gives hope to walk in faith. Come, let us worship God who
        came as a helpless child. Come, let us worship God!

Advent Candle Lighting   Kathy Lindblad

Invocation 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.

*Song of Praise   "Joy to the World"   (on screen)

*Responsive Reading   "The Birth of Jesus Christ"
    Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary
    had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to
    be with child from the Holy Spirit.
        And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her
        to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.
    But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to
    him in a dream, saying,
        "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that
        which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.
    She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people
    from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:
        "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his
        name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).
    When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him:
        he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son.
        And he called his name Jesus.
*Hymn of Praise   "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"   (on screen)

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings   Acts 20:35b
*Doxology & Prayer of Dedication

Pastoral Prayer

*Hymn of Faith   "Who Is He in Yonder Stall?"   (on screen)
                        (responsive with Choir/Congregation)

Scripture Reading   Isaiah 9:6-7
Sermon   "No Ordinary Child"   Rev. Adrian Scott

Call to Confession: "You, Lord, are forgiving and good, abounding in love
     to all who call to you." (Psalm 86:5) Dear friends, the Scriptures urge us to
     acknowledge our sins, and not to conceal them in the presence of God our
     heavenly Father, but to confess them with a penitent and obedient heart, so that
     we may be forgiven through his boundless goodness and mercy.

Silent Confession and Personal Reflection

Prayer of Confession (in unison)
     **God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in
darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted good news
to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little, and
hoping for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive
the fullness of your grace, and live in the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen.**

Assurance of God's Forgiveness: Our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ gave
     himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness: "For the grace of God has
     appeared, bringing salvation for all people." (Titus 2:11)

*Closing Song   "Angels We Have Heard on High"   (on screen)

Doxology (responsive)
     May you live this week with an eternal perspective.
          **Live as if God has come among us, because he
          has.**
     Live as if God has revealed himself to you
          **and called you to love and good works—
          because he has.**
     Live in anticipation of the reconciliation of all creation
     to God—because it is coming. Live as if your life
     depended upon God's grace—because it does.
          **And live to celebrate the advent of our Messiah,
          Jesus Christ, praising the name of the Father,
          the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.**
     *Go in peace and live the church (Vox Veniae, ('Voice
     of Forgiveness")*

Announcements

Postlude St. John Band

*Those who are able are asked to stand.
(English Standard Version is used unless otherwise noted.)