

December 20, 2020 9am
The Bright Star of Bethlehem Advent Service Four: Star of Joy
Children's Pageant

P. In the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C. Amen.**

Call to Worship – Cindy Rerucha assistant

A. Jesus, Bright Star of Bethlehem, light of creation,

C. Shine now and enlighten the whole world!

A. Jesus, Bright Star of Bethlehem, light of hope,

C. Shine now and heal broken hearts!

A. shine now, Bright Star of Bethlehem and bring your light and your life to us!

C. Shine now and heal broken hearts! Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath (Wilts)

Family. Today we light the fourth candle of our Advent wreath. We give thanks for the joy that comes with the light of Christ.

(first candle is lit)

Family. At the dawn of creation God said, "Let there be light!"

C. Advent Lord, shine your light on us! Alleluia!

(2nd candle lit)

Family. When Jesus came, hope was born!

C. Advent Lord, shine your light on us! Alleluia!

(3rd candle lit)

Family. The light of Christ brings unity to our world.

C. Advent Lord, shine your light on us! Alleluia!

Family. The star of Bethlehem brings joys to all.

(4th candle lit)

Prayer of the Day

A. Jesus, Bright star of Bethlehem, just as you were born in Bethlehem so long ago, we pray that you would be born again in us today. Bring your true and lasting joy to our world, to us and to all, for you are joy in the flesh and in your blessed name we pray.

C. Amen.

Word

Reading (Leslie Rhegness)

R. Isaiah 61:1-3

The Spirit of God, the Master, is on me because God anointed me. He sent me to preach good news to the poor, heal the heartbroken, announce freedom to all captives, pardon all prisoners. God sent me to announce the year of his grace— a celebration of God's destruction of our enemies— and to comfort all who mourn, to care for the needs of all who mourn in Zion, give them bouquets of roses instead of ashes, messages of joy instead of news of doom, a praising heart instead of a languid spirit. Rename them "Oaks of Righteousness" planted by God to display his glory.

Gospel Acclamation: Song: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

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 meet in thee tonight.

R. Gospel: Luke 1:39-56

Mary didn't waste a minute. She got up and traveled to a town in Judah in the hill country, straight to Zachariah's house, and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby in her womb leaped. She was filled with the Holy Spirit, and sang out exuberantly, "You're so blessed among women, and the babe in your womb, also blessed! And why am I so blessed that the mother of my Lord visits me? The moment the sound of your greeting entered my ears, the babe in my womb skipped like a lamb for sheer joy. Blessed woman, who believed what God said, believed every word would come true!"

And Mary said, "I'm bursting with God-news; I'm dancing the song of my Savior God. God took one good look at me, and look what happened—I'm the most fortunate woman on earth! What God has done for me will never be forgotten, the God whose very name is holy, set apart from all others. His mercy flows in wave after wave on those who are in awe before him. He bared his arm and showed his strength, scattered the bluffing braggarts. He knocked tyrants off their high horses, pulled victims out of the mud. The starving poor sat down to a banquet; the callous rich were left out in the cold. He embraced his chosen child, Israel; he remembered and piled on the mercies, piled them high. It's exactly what he promised, beginning with Abraham and right up to now."

Mary stayed with Elizabeth for three months and then went back to her own home.

Message

Response

Children's Pageant

"Message from Kids this Year"

"Christmas in Rhyme" December 2019 pageant

Sent

Benediction

P. Go now to shine like stars in the sky, bringing the light of Christ to the world. And the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the +Son and the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C.**
Amen.

Dismissal

A. Go in the Hope of our Shining Jesus. **C. Thanks be to God.**