

Prelude

Lighting the Candles

Special Music

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE: HOPE

Jesus says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven."

Advent means we watch and wait for Christ's coming. Christ comes to give Hope to the "poor in spirit." The "poor in spirit" receive Christ the King of God's Kingdom. Disciples of Christ give Hope to the world.

ACT ONE: "GOD WITH US"

Joseph is "poor in spirit." He did not want to expose Mary to public disgrace. He knew the Law of Moses. He wanted to keep it. He was blind and deaf to Christ's Way of Grace.

Mary receives God's favor. She was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.

Joseph hears God's still small voice. He receives Mary. Imagine Joseph and Mary's Hope filled conversations. "God is with us, and we didn't know it."

This week speak with loved ones about times the Holy Spirit used disgrace to open your heart-soul-mind to experience God with us. Disciples of Christ give Hope by quietly exposing disgraced people to God's mercy, grace, and love.

Special Music

The Way of the Blessed

I hope you will receive and practice the Way of the Blessed. Please allow me to pray with you as we enter Our Father's House of Prayer.

"Father, thank you for blessing us with the gift of Holy Scripture. Let the words you desire us to receive be lifted out of the passage and flow into our hearts and minds. Let your Holy Spirit lead us to share with You what the words mean to us. (Confession) Lord Jesus, you say you desire mercy not sacrifice. Let this Hope of Mercy free us to enter your Holy Presence.

Abiding in your presence give us ears to hear what the word means to you. (Repentance) Give us eyes to see how to prepare the way of the Lord with others. (Witness) Amen

Divine Reading of Scripture: Matthew 1: 18—24

(The bold words are what I received from my reading of God's word. The ones you receive will likely be different from mine.)

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was **pledged** to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be **pregnant through the Holy Spirit**. ¹⁹ Because Joseph, her husband, was **faithful to the law**, and yet did not want to expose her public **disgrace**, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, **do not be afraid** to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

²² All this took place to **fulfill** what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "**God with us**").

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and **took Mary home as his wife**. ²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he **gave** him the name Jesus.

Prayer: What word, phrase, or idea did you receive from God through the Word?

Read the passage a second time.

Confession: What does the word, phrase, or idea mean to you?

Read the passage a third time.

Repentance: Ask what the word means to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Pay close attention to how Matthew quotes the prophets.) How is God fulfilling the scripture through Joseph and Mary? God desires to commune with you in the same way. In other words, ask how God desires to fulfill his word in you. (When I ask God what a word received through the Holy Spirit means, it often comes as a sudden knowing. It is like hearing a still small

voice speaking in my soul.)

Witness: Keep a journal. God often gives me answers when I least expect it. When you receive an answer record it in your journal. Give thanks for the answer. Ask God who you might share your witness of receiving God's word, confessing your understanding, hearing God's answer, and how it made you think and feel.

Hope: God with Us

Imagine receiving an invitation from God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Name, you are invited to join me in The House of Prayer for the Wedding Feast. Arrive clothed in Hope, Peace, and Love.

The Anointed One

The Blessed Pray

The Blessed Confess

The Blessed Repent

The Blessed Witness

Watching and waiting we see and hear Joseph receive Mary and together they give Hope to the World.

Tithes and Offerings

Benediction

God's son is Jesus. God is with us. Jesus gave us another comforter: The Holy Spirit who is with us always. The same Holy Spirit who gave Mary the Christ Child seeks to overshadow your heart, transform your mind, and clothe your soul with Hope.

Covid-19 is a valley of darkness. God with us! Watch and Wait for the Coming Christ. He comes through His Word to transform our hearts and minds into the House of Prayer. Amen.

Postlude

THE TRINITY COMPANION

NOVEMBER 29, 2020

SANCTUARY WORSHIP



**TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
203 E. 1ST ST., SOUTH
BIG STONE GAP, VA 24219**

**EARLY SANCTUARY WORSHIP BEGINS AT 10:00 AM
LATE SANCTUARY WORSHIP BEGINS AT 11:00 AM
PASTOR—REV. ROBERT BURLINGHAM
OFFICE: (276) 523-0789
CELL PHONE & TEXT: (423) 863-7622
EMAIL: ROBERT.BURLINGHAM@OUTLOOK.COM**