

FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Worship for the Lord's Day December 20, 2020

PRELUDES

Singing Glory

Virtual Choir

He Shall Feed His Flock Like a Shepherd (Handel)

Jesus, Joy of Man's Desiring (Bach)

Peter & Alison Slade

ANNOUNCEMENTS

"For Such a Time as This"

PLEDGE DRIVE FOR MINISTRY IN 2021

Session met for a budget review & they are in the process of calling many of you.

This year, we project that we need between \$220,000.

CURRENTLY, Our pledge total for next year is \$171,000.

Gap: \$49,000

You've cut the gap in half over the past week. THANK YOU.

We are getting there.

We feel there are many dedicated members still out there who will turn in pledges.

Please Susan Devine your pledge, or use this online form:

<https://forms.gle/ag4tj55ysmhZRZkC7>

- This Week: Prayer Service Every Night at 6pm (Zoom)
- Meals every day, Monday thru Friday, 11am-1pm (Christmas off)
- Learning Pod is on break for the holidays (like BPS). We will reopen in January.
- Monday, Wednesday (4pm-5:30pm, during which time the sun sets!):
SANCTUARY AVAILABLE FOR PRAYER AND MEDITATION
Music will be playing. Candles will be lit. Come and go at your convenience.
(Please wear your mask. Limit of no more than 5 people in the sanctuary at one time.)
- Wednesday – will be quiet after our 6pm worship service.
Study Group and Choir will take a holiday break.
- Mindful of day-to-day changes in COVID numbers, Session has voted to discontinue in person participation in Sunday worship at least through January 24. Session is making an extra effort to call those who most depended on the In Person connection. Obviously, we encourage everybody to make an effort to call each other, too! This is how we will make it.

*** THIS THURSDAY is CHRISTMAS EVE**

5:30 – 6:15pm: Zoom Service with a Zoom Pageant (Contact Katie Cole to participate)

6:45 - We will gather OUTSIDE front door with candles and sing "Silent Night"

The 5:30 Service is Online only (no in person gathering)

The 6:45 OUTDOOR gathering is open to all. It will last 10-15 minutes



Please write announcements & prayer requests in the Zoom Chat Section.

DO YOU WANT A CALL? *Tell Deb Duval or Katie Cole in the chat and we will call you today.*

*CALL TO WORSHIP - The Season of Advent

Leader: Come all who are weary, all who are broken-hearted, all who ache from the world's hurt.

People: With the prophets we name our plea: O that the Lord would tear open the heavens and come down.

L: We plea, we hope, and we prepare.

P: Make a way for the Lord. Repent and make these paths straight.

L: With the prophets we live in expectation,

P: For the spirit of the Lord is upon us

L: And like the prophets we offer ourselves as God's partners in repairing and building.

All: O Lord, we remember that you came.

We acknowledge that you're here.

We trust that you're coming.

We offer our hands to build your kingdom

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLES (Diane Devore and family)
The Light, A Psalm, A Prayer, The Peace

*HYMN # 133 *O Come All Ye Faithful* (sanctuary)

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!

Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

Refrain: O come, let us adore him (3x) Christ, the Lord!

True God from true God, Light from Light eternal,

Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;

very- God, begotten, not created, [Refrain]

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above:

"Glory to God, all glory in the highest!" [Refrain]

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;

Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; [Refrain]

LITURGY OF CONFESSION (The Sanchez Family)

Unison Confession: Gracious and merciful God, we often dwell in shadows that darken Your bright image. Forgive us for seeing ourselves and those around us with eyes dimmed by judgment and fear; open our eyes that we may see each other as You see us – as beloved. Forgive us for closing our ears to the sound of Your voice; may we hear the sound of Your good news, and leap for joy like John in his mother's womb. Forgive us for allowing our minds to be fixed on despair; keep us awake to signs of hope. We cry out, O God, come down and reveal Yourself to us once more. Restore us, so that we may do Your work of restoration.

Time for Silent Confession

Sung Response

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel.

That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*LITURGY OF PARDON

Leader: "Comfort, comfort my people," says your God.

People: The Word has become flesh and dwelt among us.

Leader: The glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people together will see it, will hear it, and will live in it.

People: We have beheld that glory.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Sung Response (#23)

Glo-ria. In excelsis Deo (repeat)

TIME FOR CHILDREN -

(Katie Cole)

CELEBRATIONS, CONCERNS & PRAYER

A MOMENT FOR THE Pledge Campaign to Support Ministry in 2021

PRAYER REQUESTS – From The People Gathered in the Sanctuary
From Those Gathered on Zoom

Deb Duval will share prayer requests written in the "Zoom Chat Section"

PASTORAL PRAYER Burns

*HYMN (#98)

"To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary"

To a maid whose name was Mary
the angel Gabriel came.
"Fear not," the angel told her,
"I come to bring good news,
Good news I come to tell you,
good news, I say, good news."

"For you are highly favored
by God the Lord of all,
who even now is with you.
You are on earth most blest,
you are most blest, most blessed,
God chose you, you are blest!"

But Mary was most troubled
to hear the angel's word.
What was the angel saying?
It troubled her to hear,
To hear the angel's message,
It troubled her to hear.

"Fear not, for God is with you,
and you shall bear a child.
His name shall be called Jesus,
God's offspring from on high.
And he shall reign forever,
Forever reign on high."

"How shall this be?" said Mary,
"I am not yet a wife."
The angel answered quickly,
"The pow'r of the Most High
will come upon you shortly,
your child will be God's child."

As Mary heard the angel
she wondered at his words.
"Behold, I am your handmaid,"
she said unto her God,
"So be it, I am ready
according to your Word."

SCRIPTURE READINGS

2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16
Romans 16: 25-27
Luke 1: 26-38

(Ken Grant)
(Deb Duval)
(sanctuary)

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Star of Bethlehem"

Virtual Choir

MESSAGE

" Wherever You Are.... "

UNISON PRAYER

(from the poetry of Mary Oliver)

(Katie Cole)

Gracious God, thank you for this wild and precious life. Thank you for moments that amaze, the silence in which Another Voice speaks, and even gifted boxes of darkness. Guide us this season in the living of this life—

That we might pay attention,
That we might be astonished.
That we might tell others about it.

We patch our words together, Holy One, with all our yearnings, our hopes, our fears and our faith. Awaken in us a heart to receive and be astounded. Amen.

OFFERING

(Katie Cole)

We can give online at www.fourthboston.org OR send a check to
Fourth Presbyterian Church, 340 Dorchester Street, South Boston, MA 02127

DOXOLOGY

Tim, Michelle, Abe Sanchez & Grandma Jenny (in Somerville)
With a recording from a past worship service

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Revs. Ken Grant, Katie Cole, Deb Duval, Burns Stanfield

Wexford Carol

Peter & Alison Slade

(sanctuary)

*HYMN (#147)

"The First Nowell"

(sanctuary)

The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Born is the King of Israel!

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east, beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.

Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Born is the King of Israel!

And by the light of that same star
Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a King was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.

Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Born is the King of Israel!

This star drew nigh to the northwest:
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
And there it did both stop and stay,
Right over the place where Jesus lay.

Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Born is the King of Israel!

*BENEDICTION

Spoken Response: Alleluia, Amen!

Sung Response God be with you till we meet again; Loving counsels guide, uphold you,
With a shepherd's care enfold you: God be with you till we meet again

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