

The Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory *"Still, Still, Still"* Shackley

Doxology **PH#591**

**BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD
INTO THE WORLD**

*Hymn *"While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"* **RED#119**

*Charge and Blessing Sue Sawers, CLP

Postlude *"Lo, How a Rose e'er Blooming"* Shackley

***Please be seated for the postlude. Thank you.**

SERMON BY: Sue Sawers, CLP
WORSHIP LEADER: Marilyn Montgomery
USHER/GREETER: Rebecca Rowe
ADVENT CANDLE: Sherri Roberts
ADVENT WREATH READER: Brianne Satorius
ORGANIST: Emma Lou Denton
PIANIST: Rich Ford

*Please stand, if able CCLI License #2716138
Hymnals: PH-blue hard cover; Red-red hard cover; SF-small blue soft cover

Announcements

Every Sunday Is Food Pantry Sunday!

Meals on Wheels is needing delivery volunteers for December and January. If you are interested in helping, please call the Daily Bread number at the High Rise, to sign up. 217-632-4314



Central Presbyterian Church

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**December 19, 2021
4th Sunday of Advent**

Welcome & Announcements

Prayer (Please take a moment to prepare your heart for worship)

Prelude *“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”* Shackley

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

*Call to Worship

L: Through time and space, in the blink of the eye, the love of God stretched forth in the life of a young girl, asking that she be part of God’s great plan of salvation.

P: **Her name was Mary. She was not of wealth or power. She was a person, just like you and me.**

L: The good news came first to the lowly.

P: **Even today, we believe that good news often comes only to the mighty. How wrong we are!**

L: In a world where hatred and fear was commonplace, the Christ child would be born.

P: **Fear and hatred are far too commonplace in our world. May the Christ child come anew into our hearts this day.**

L: Praise be to God.

P: Hallelujah! Amen.

***Hymn** *“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”* **RED#106**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Lord, we are so excited. We want to jump ahead to the exciting and wondrous worship service that we will hold this Christmas Eve. We are impatient to hear the whole story. Slow us down again, Lord. Cause us to look at the blossoming of the branch and remind us that your love is blossoming in our lives. As we hear Mary say “yes!” to God’s good news, help us to remember that God continually calls us to be those who will bear the good news to those in need. Forgive us when we forget to do that. Heal our wounds and bind up our spirits. Enable us to go into your world offering our lives, our gifts, our talents, for your glory. **In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.** (Time of silence for personal confession.)

Assurance of Pardon

God’s love and faithfulness have been at work in you. You are healed and forgiven. Rejoice in God’s love and blossom.

Amen.

The Peace

L: Peace be with you.

P: **And also with you.**

***Gloria Patri** *“Glory Be to the Father”* **PH# 579**

Chancel Choir

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Time with Young Disciples Sue Sawers, CLP

Scripture Readings Micah 5:2-5

Sermon *“Why has this happened to me?”* Sue Sawers, CLP

Luke 1:39-45

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Hymn** *“Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne”* **RED#124**

*Affirmation of Faith

Let us confess the faith of our baptism using the words of the Apostles’ Creed.

I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People As prayers are offered

L: God of Mercy,

P: **Hear our prayer.**