

PRELUDE

Divinum Mysterium

Wilbur Held

INVITATION

OPENING HYMN

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (vs. 1 & 4)

#131

**It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold;
“Peace on the earth, good will to all, great news of joy we bring.”
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.**

**For, lo the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold.
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
And all the world send back the song which now the angels sing.**

OPENING PRAYER

Our hearts are restless, O God, until we find rest in You. Too often, we have been taught and caught the culture narratives of power, position, and privilege. Honestly, God, we don't understand how Your grand entry into our world, in a stable, makes any sense. Why didn't You decide to make a YouTube video or come up with a clever Tweet that could trend on social media? Why didn't You hire an image consultant that could help You develop a brand? *That* we would understand. In an age of agitation, peace is elusive. In an age when so much is beyond our control that we are left flummoxed and frustrated and needing to find a release valve on someone, peace rarely gets a word in edgewise. As we pause this morning, we realize our minds are going to find a thousand objections to why this prayer will never work. But then again, who would have thought that what was needed to save the world would be found in a manger? Let Your holy truth disrupt our individual truths, we pray.

Pregnant Pause to listen for the peace seeking to make a home in your heart.

LIGHTING the CANDLE of PEACE

RESPONSE

**Light one candle for peace, one bright candle for peace.
God brings peace to ev'ry heart, God comes! God comes!**

RECOGNITION of WORLD AIDS DAY

Dick Miller

ANTHEM

My Lord, What a Morning
Felix McElroy, bass soloist

arr. Robert Hobby

ENGAGING SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ²In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. ³Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that He may teach us His ways and that we may walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of

the Lord from Jerusalem. ⁴He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. ⁵O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

SERMON

Peace is More than an Item on the To-Do List

CELEBRATION of HOLY COMMUNION

One: You are formed in God's image,

Many: Every person reflects the handiwork, fingerprints, creativity of our Creator.

One: We come to a table where all are welcome,

Many: We arrive on this second Sunday of Advent hungry for hope, peace, love, and joy

One: So may all those who long to encounter and experience the Holy hum of God draw near.

Many: We gather as God's people to taste on the tip of our tongues the truth that transcends all truths, we are God's beloved, called to be love in the world today.

PASTORAL PRAYER & 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.

WORDS of INSTITUTION

SHARING THE GIFTS of GOD'S SELF-GIVING

PRAYER of THANKSGIVING

CLOSING HYMN

Go Tell It on the Mountain

#154

Refrain: **Go tell it on the mountain, over the hill and everywhere
God tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!**

**While shepherds kept their watching, o'er silent flocks by night.
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *Refrain***

**The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain***

**Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain***

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Go Tell It

arr. David Lowe

Ushers: Lois Watson; Gregg Matthews; Wes Curry

Bus Driver: Dale Woodling

Communion Preparers: Lois Watson and Susan Moore

Fellowship: Birthday Sunday!!

Liturgist: Priscilla Crumel