

Wheat Ridge Presbyterian Church Worship, December 20, 2020 • Advent 4: Love

Psalm 89:1-6 • Luke 1:26-45 • www.WRPres.org •

“**THOSE WHO DREAM... are not alone**”

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Bold = all read • Regular = Leader

Prelude

Improvisation On “Greensleeves,

Organist, Julie Pulliam
Alfred V. Fedak

Welcome and Announcements

The Rev. Dr. Laura S. Sugg

Call to Worship*

I knew joy, but when I heard the laugh of my child,

Suddenly, joy was overflowing.

I knew love, but when you held my hand,

Suddenly, love was overflowing.

I knew God, but when you showed me grace,

when you forgave me,

when you loved me,

when you raised me,

Suddenly, God was overflowing.

So, let us worship Holy God together

As a reminder that God is here and we are never alone.

This is community.

This is the body of Christ.

Welcome home

Candle Lighting Liturgy: The Candle of Love

Prayer for Renewal

God of Good News,

You say to me, “You are highly favored,” but I struggle to see how that could be.

You say to me, “Do not be afraid,” but I am afraid all the time.

You say to me, “Even the impossible is possible, just look at Elizabeth!”

But hope slips through my hands like water.

The impossible still feels impossible.

So today I pray, today *we* pray:

teach us to sing like Mary.

teach us to laugh like Elizabeth.

teach us to trust like the angels.

Forgive us when we can only do one at a time, or none at all.

Amen.

Assurance of God’s Grace

God’s love is everlasting.

God’s mercy is boundless.

The new life we have in Christ

enables us to share the good news that no one is alone!

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Hymn

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear (verses 1, 3, and 4) Tune: "Carol" Richard Storrs Willis
Presbyterian Hymnal # 38, Text: Edmund Sears

1 *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,
From heaven's all gracious King":
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.*

3 *And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow,
Look now! for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing;
O rest beside the weary road,
And hear the angels sing.*

4 *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 the whole world send back the song
Which now the angels sing.*

Prayer for Illumination

Holy God,

Before you could speak, you were speaking—

leaping in wombs, kicking, stretching, jumping for joy.

**You have always found a way to show up in our midst,
particularly on our fearful or lonely days.**

**So today, as we crack open our Bibles,
fluttering through these old beloved pages,
we ask that you would move again.**

Stir in us.

Speak to us.

Fill us with the Holy Spirit.

**And if we are not able to hear your Word clearly,
then give us Elizabeths**

who will point out your presence in delight and joy.

**Before you could speak, you were speaking,
so here and now, Creator God, we are listening.**

Amen.

Scripture Readings:

Psalm 89:1-6

Luke 1:26-45

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Message: *THOSE WHO DREAM... are not alone*

Confirmation of Elliott, Landon, Annika, and Naomi

Special Music

Comfort, Comfort Now my People
Katie Sakanai

music Genevan Psalter
written by Johannes Olearius in 1641
transl. Catherine Winkworth

Prayers of the People concluding with the 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Hymn

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming Traditional German carol 15th century
Katie Sakanai, vocal, guitar and bass, Jon Stubbs Arr. Jon Stubbs Transl. Theodore Baker

**1 *Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung.
Of Jesse's lineage coming,
By faithful prophets sung.
It came a floweret bright,
Amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.***

**2 *Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The rose I have in mind,
With Mary we behold it,
The virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright
She bore for us a Savior,
When half spent was the night.***

Closing Sentences of Affirmation

**We believe that this world is hard—
harder than it has to be.**

**When the world falls apart around us,
we believe in listening for the angels that say, “Do not be afraid,”
and in seeking out the Elizabeths in our lives—
those who laugh with joy at our arrival
and throw open the doors to their homes.**

**We believe that healthy relationships can offer healing,
through the laughter of cousins,
the joy shared between siblings,
and the home found in partnership.**

**Therefore, we believe in church families, in chosen families,
and in the love that extends beyond family.**

**We believe in friendships, in neighbors,
and in leaning on each other when the going gets tough.**

**We believe in the Triune God—Lover, Beloved, and Love itself—
inherently relational, always connected, and never alone.**

We believe that that same beloved-ness exists for us.

**We believe that we are loved and claimed,
never alone.**

Thanks be to God for a love like that.

Benediction

Postlude

Christmas Postlude on “In Dulci Jubilo,”

Organist, Julie Pulliam
Arr. Gilbert M. Martin

*If you watch the worship service at 10 AM on Facebook, please transition to Fellowship Time
on Zoom at 11:00 AM using the link in the congregational emails.*