



Worship with us online
this Advent season
on Sunday mornings
and Christmas Eve
at www.bmpcnc.org



BLACK MOUNTAIN Presbyterian Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2020



PRELUDE

Freu Dich Sehr, O Meine Seele

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

Michael Barker, organist

Freu Dich Sehr is the German iteration of the tune more commonly known to Presbyterians as Genevan 42. Louis Bourgeois and Claude Goudimel adapted a popular tune in existence since the mid-1500's to pair it with text from Psalm 42. At some point a different text based on Isaiah 40 became associated with the tune. In Germany the tune was paired with a fervently devotional text, rich with imagery spanning the sweep of salvation history and the personal life of faith. The opening line of the German text is deeply reminiscent of the opening line of the Magnificat, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior..." Karg-Elert's setting of the tune takes the form of an extended meditation; the melody is not heard at all until the final six measures of the work.

WELCOME

Mary Katherine Robinson

CALL TO WORSHIP

David Carter Florence

The poet, Ann Weems, wrote:

"When the Holy Child is born into our hearts
there is a rain of stars
a rushing of angels
a blaze of candles
this God bursts into our lives.
Love is running through the streets."

We worship the God of love who is coming!

This God is made known to us as a babe in the manger.

Open our hearts, O Lord, to receive your blessed gift of love.

CANDLE LIGHTING

Bill and Annamarie Arens

HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

Matt Begley, song leader



O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O
Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion;—



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le hem! Come, and be - hold him,
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven— a bove! Glo - ry to God, all



born the King of an - gels! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let us a -
glo - ry in the high - est! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let us a -

dore him; O come, let us a - dore him — Christ, — the Lord!
 dore him; O come, let us a - dore him — Christ, — the Lord!

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God who is coming to us,
 forgive us when our hectic lives hide your presence;
 when the tinsel of Christmas means more to us than your truth;
 when our hearts of stone resist the pain and brokenness around us;
 when we care more about what gifts to buy
 than the damage we do to your creation and to your children.
 Have mercy on us, healing God,
 so we might tear down the walls we have built
 to keep your love away and seek your justice for our human family,
 so our hearts become candles for your son,
 our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Thanks be to God: we are forgiven!

RESPONSE OF PRAISE

What Can I Give Him?

CRANHAM

What — can I give him, poor — as I am? If I were a
 shep - herd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man, I would do my
 part; yet what I can I give him: give — my — heart.

FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

Pat Tuttle

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:39-45

SERMON

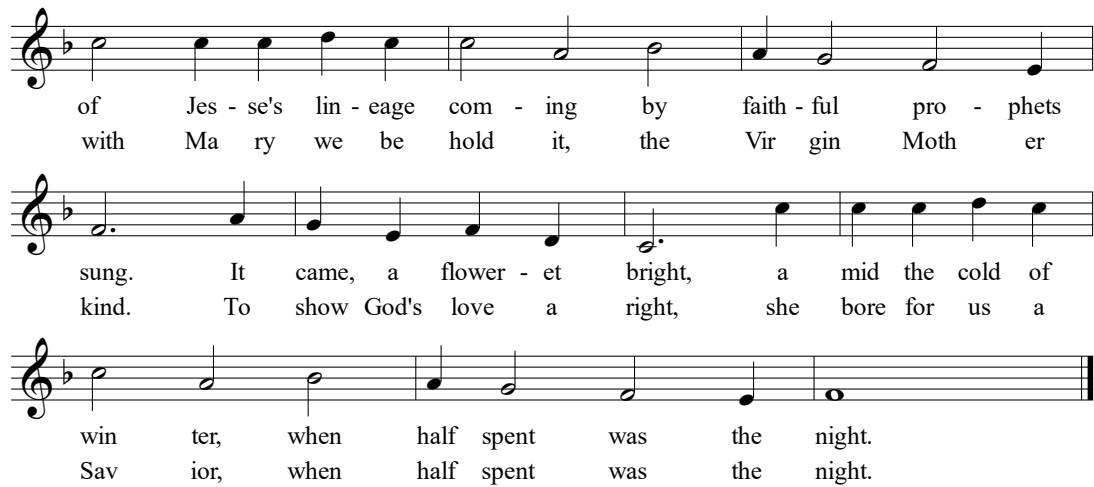
Those Who Dream Are Not Alone: Love

HYMN

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ES IST EIN ROS'

Lo! how a rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung,
 I - sa iah 'twas fore told it, the Rose I have in mind;



of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing by faith - ful pro - phets
with Ma ry we be hold it, the Vir gin Moth er
sung. It came, a flower - et bright, a mid the cold of
kind. To show God's love a right, she bore for us a
win ter, when half spent was the night.
Sav ior, when half spent was the night.

CALL TO OFFERING

Offertory

Paraphrase on *Thine Is The Glory*

Alexander Guilmant

The offerings we give acknowledge that everything we have is a gift from God. Thank you for participating in the ministry and mission work of BMPC. You can find instructions for all ways of giving online [here](#)

You can use your phone to text the word “BMPC” to phone number 73256:

You will receive a link that will direct you to our online giving form where you can enter in the amount you would like to give, choose your fund, enter your payment information, and give.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

As you go,

May you have the strength to dream wild dreams of justice, peace, and joy that overflows.

May you have the humanity to listen to the dreams of others.

May you have the confidence to trust that the God who heard the cries of the Israelites in Egypt, hears your dreams as well.

And may you have the conviction to return to this space, for our best dreams are those we dream together.

In the name of God the original dreamer,

Jesus the dream come true,

and the Holy Spirit who enables us to be those who dream.

May you go forth from this place in hope and peace.

POSTLUDE

Es Ist Ein Ros' Entsprungen

Johannes Brahms

The rich, chromatic harmonic language of Karg-Elert in the prelude is matched by that of Brahms in this poignant setting of the familiar carol. What might be called “crunchy” dissonances in other contexts, in this work are “achingly lovely.”

Hearing the melody, for even the most astute listener, is well-nigh impossible. Most organists have the individual notes of the melody highlighted in their scores so they can be mindful of them in the swirl of passing tones.



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JOYS AND CONCERNS

Family and friends of Alice Schweitzer who entered God's Church Triumphant on December 12. A private service was held on Friday, December 18, and the family hopes to hold a memorial service later in the summer.

Ted Brown, Mike Begley's uncle and Ruby Begley's brother, hospitalized in Atlanta with pneumonia and Covid. He is in his mid 90s but has been healthy previously.

Michael Bryant, Gayle Petty Johnson's cousin by marriage, having his fifth surgery in the past nine months for tongue cancer. Also his wife Anne who needs strength to help him. They are members at First Pres Ft Worth.

Max, Paul and Diane Ginther's two-month-old granddaughter, diagnosed with covid

Ruth Janes following the death of her brother, Joe Garrison, December 10

Frances Kennedy following the death of her brother, Albert Harris, December 2

Alice Smith is recovering from a fall and bruised ribs

Richard Speegle, Valorie Speegle-Snell's brother, struggling with throat cancer

Margie Tyas, prayers for comfort and peace

Our PC(USA) Mission Co-workers: **John McCall** in Taiwan; **Dan & Elizabeth Turk** in Madagascar; **Gary & Marlene Van Brocklin** in South Asia. Outreach Foundation: **Frank Dimmock**
Seminary Student: **Emily Beaver**, Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia
Our partner Presbytery and partner church, **Ebenezer, in Guatemala**
The situation in Guatemala is very difficult with COVID-19. It seems that our Ebenezer church members are healthy, but many are not able to work and it is not easy to get food.

Please remember in prayer these people with ongoing concerns:

Martha Jean Alvis, Daisy Buckner, Chad Carlton, Jane Collins, Jim Davies, Doris Hogle, Becky Hughes, Barbara Jenkins, Mary McElrath, Margaret Rada, Betty Rand, Penny Sampson, Renee & Charles Sandy, Callie Shaffer, Ann Weeks, Paul Willison



PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Gracious God, through the prophet you told your people. "I have loved you with an everlasting love, therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you. The apostle tells us "God so loved the world that he gave his only son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. Jesus calls us to love one another as he has loved us. Come quickly to save us, O God, so that wars and violence shall end and all your children may live in peace, honoring one another with justice and love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Prayer provided by Joe Walker

Our Church's Vision

Embodying the Love of Christ

Inspiring through Worship and Faith Formation • Nurturing through Fellowship
Equipping to Serve • Welcoming to All

Session

Mike Ballard, *clerk*

Class of 2020

Jane Bannerman
Emma Bell
Anne Provost Drummond
John Evans
Patti Pyle

Class of 2021

Liesl Case
Dave Johnson
Deb Mullis
Bill Straughan

Class of 2022

Ellen Begley
Austin Brown
Daniel Wiggs
Cheryl Wilson

Deacons

Class of 2020

Kristy Beaver
Dee & Bill Cox
Susan Dannenberg
Gay Ferguson
Olivia & John LaMotte
Ginny & Rick Lindsey
Lew Rudisill
Hannah & Sam Webber

Class of 2021

Yvette Ballard
Carey Jo Elam
Kiersten & Weston Hall
Franklin Harris
Cindy & Ed McDaniel
Cathy & Neil McMillan
Gayle & Peter Mudge
Kay & Mike Salmon
Margaret Waterstradt

Class of 2022

Susan & Ernie Banzhoff
Kay & Jim Layman
Susan McElrath
Mary & Don McMahill
Martha Jane Petersen
Delores Spielman
Janine & Russ Spiller

Ministers: Every Member Of The Congregation

Mary Katherine Robinson Pastor/Head of Staff
David Carter Florence Associate Pastor for Congregational Faith Formation
Bob Tuttle Parish Associate
Michael Barker Director of Music and Worship Arts
Alice Patton Director of Preschool Ministry
Sam Webber Director of Operations and Youth Ministry
Brittany Williams Director of Congregational Life and Children's Ministry
Jackie Kerr Director of Communications



BLACK MOUNTAIN
Presbyterian Church

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an Earth Care Congregation



BMPC Child Protection Policy
providing a safe environment for children & youth

