

**Today's Worship**  
**December 19, 2021**  
**Fourth Sunday in Advent**

**WELCOME** Rev. Dr. Rob Bruce

**CALL TO WORSHIP** Leader and People

**L:** The messenger of God's holy covenant is coming!

**P: Prepare the way of the Lord!**

L: The messenger comes to prepare the way before us!

**P: Prepare the way of the Lord!**

L: Who can endure, who can stand when the Lord appears?

**P: Prepare the way of the Lord!**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**  
Brittany Cain and Alex Owara

**MUSIC** **Redeeming Love** All  
**William J. Gaither 1963**

From God's heaven to a manger  
From great riches to the poor,  
Came the Son of God to seek and save  
From the azure halls of heaven  
To a rough and rugged cross  
Jesus came and here His life for all He gave

Redeeming love, a love that knows no limit  
Redeeming love, a love that shall not die  
My soul shall sing throughout the endless ages  
With choirs extolling this great love on high

From a loving heavenly Father to a world that knew Him not  
Came the Man of Sorrows Christ the Lord  
In my wandering He found me  
Bought my soul with His own blood  
Gave to me a peace this world could not afford.

**MUSIC** **Hark the Herald Angels Sing** All  
**Charles Wesley 1739**

Hark the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King  
Peace on earth and mercy mild  
God and sinners reconciled  
Joyful all ye nations rise  
Join the triumph of the skies  
With th'angelic hosts proclaim  
Christ is born in Bethlehem  
Hark the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King

Christ by highest heav'n adored  
Christ the everlasting Lord  
Late in time behold Him come  
Offspring of the Virgin's womb  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see  
Hail th'incarnate Deity  
Pleased as man with men to dwell  
Jesus our Emmanuel  
Hark the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness  
Light and life to all He brings  
Ris'n with healing in His wings  
Mild He lays His glory by  
Born that man no more may die  
Born to raise the sons of earth  
Born to give them second birth  
Hark the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King

Come Desire of nations come  
Fix in us Thy humble home  
Rise the woman's conqu'ring seed  
Bruise in us the serpent's head  
Adam's likeness now efface  
Stamp Thine image in its place  
Second Adam from above  
Reinstate us in Thy love  
Hark the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King

**PASTORAL PRAYER** Tracey Wimpy

**LORD'S PRAYER** All

**Our Father, which 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 trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, For ever and ever.**

**SCRIPTURE LESSON** Luke 1:57-80 (NRSV) Ms. Wimpy

**The Birth of John the Baptist**

57 Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. 58 Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

59 On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. 60 But his mother said, "No; he is to be called John." 61 They said to her, "None of your relatives has this name." 62 Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. 63 He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And all of them were amazed. 64 Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. 65 Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. 66 All who heard them pondered them and said, "What then will this child become?" For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him. 67 Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy: 68 "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. 69 He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, 70 as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, 71 that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. 72 Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, 73 the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us 74 that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, 75 in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. 76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, 77 to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. 78 By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, 79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." 80 The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

**MUSIC** **Love Came Down at Christmas** All  
**Jars of Clay 2007**

Love came down at Christmas  
Love all lovely, love divine  
Love was born at Christmas  
Stars and angels gave the sign

Love will be our token  
Love be yours and love be mine  
Love from God to all of us  
Love for plea and gift, a sign

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION** Chris Hester

**SERMON** **No Forgetting**

**MUSIC**

**Angels from the Realms of Glory**  
**James Montgomery 1816**

All

Angels from the realms of glory  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth  
Ye who sang creation's story  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth

Chorus  
Come and worship come and worship  
Worship Christ the newborn King

Saints before the altar bending  
Watching long in hope and fear  
Suddenly the Lord descending  
In His temple shall appear

All creation join in praising  
God the Father Spirit Son  
Evermore your voices raising  
To the eternal Three in One

**BENEDICTION**

Ms. Wimpy

May your love overflow, rich and wholesome in the world. May you be found pure and blameless, having prepared a way and a place for the Lord in your hearts. May you reap the bountiful harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

**ALL: We go to Love Christ, Love People, and Help People Love Christ. AMEN**

**Opportunities This Week**

*Monday, Dec. 20*

Music Rehearsal 6:30PM Bagley Annex  
(Janni Martin 770-533-0679, [friendofguatemala@gmail.com](mailto:friendofguatemala@gmail.com))

*Tuesday, Dec. 21*

Good News at Noon 6:30PM at Good News  
(Jean Prezel [jeanprezel@gmail.com](mailto:jeanprezel@gmail.com), 678-720-6945)

*Wednesday, Dec. 22*

Advent Study 7PM virtual  
(Chris Hester 678-936-5127, [chrishester23@gmail.com](mailto:chrishester23@gmail.com))

*Thursday, Dec. 23*

*Church Office Closed for Christmas*

*Friday, Dec. 24*

*Christmas Eve*

Candlelight and Communion 5:30PM pavilion and streaming online  
(Rob Bruce 404-906-8276, [rob.bruce@ngumc.net](mailto:rob.bruce@ngumc.net))

*Saturday, Dec. 25*

*Christmas Day*

*Sunday, Dec. 26*

Children's Sunday School 10AM Bagley Annex sunroom  
(Chris Hester 678-936-5127, [chrishester23@gmail.com](mailto:chrishester23@gmail.com))

Pages Adult Sunday School class 10AM Bagley Annex classroom  
(Garry Glenn 678-617-8073, [rglenn@aim.com](mailto:rglenn@aim.com))

Journey to Bethlehem Adult Sunday School class  
9:45AM Bagley Annex garage

(Lamar Jordan 770-536-9043. [ljordan4751@charter.net](mailto:ljordan4751@charter.net))

Current Hearts Adult Sunday School class 10AM Pastor's office and Zoom  
(Rev. Dr. Susan Taylor [revdrtaylor@gmail.com](mailto:revdrtaylor@gmail.com))

Worship 11AM pavilion and streaming online  
(Rob Bruce 404-906-8276, [rob.bruce@ngumc.net](mailto:rob.bruce@ngumc.net))



*Loving Christ Loving People Helping People Love Christ*

**Welcome! We're Glad You're Here!**



We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, filthy rich, dirt poor. We extend a special welcome to those who are crying newborns, skinny as a rail or could afford to lose a few pounds.

We welcome you if you can sing like Andrea Bocelli or like our pastor who can't carry a note in a bucket. You're welcome here if you're "just browsing," just woke up or just got out of jail. We don't care if you're more Methodist than Asbury, or haven't been in church since little Joey's Baptism.

We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome soccer moms, NASCAR dads, starving artists, latte-sippers, vegetarians, junk-food eaters.

We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems or you're down in the dumps or if you don't like "organized religion;" we've been there too.

If you blew all your offering money at the dog track, you're welcome here. We offer a special welcome to those who think the earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell, or because grandma is in town and wanted to go to church.

We welcome those who are inked, pierced or both. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down your throat as a kid or got lost in traffic and wound up here by mistake. We welcome tourists, seekers and doubters, bleeding hearts and you!

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[mceverumc.org](http://mceverumc.org)

**Next Week's Sermon**

*Think about it \* Pray about it*

**No Keeping Out**  
Luke 2:8-20

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