

Christ Church

Prelude

Moments of Concern

Lighting of the Advent Candle – Gary and Deb Dennis

Call to Worship: *Habakkuk 2:20* – “But the LORD is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him.”

Heidelberg Catechism: Lord’s Day 52 (page 36)

Q. What does the sixth request mean?

A. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one means, by ourselves we are too weak to hold our own even for a moment. And our sworn enemies – the devil, the world, and our own flesh – never stop attacking us. And so, Lord, uphold us and make us strong with the strength of Your Holy Spirit, so that we may not go down to defeat in this spiritual struggle, but may firmly resist our enemies until we finally win the complete victory.

Q. What does your conclusion to this prayer mean?

A. For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever means, we have made all these requests of You because, as our all-powerful King, You not only want to, but are able to give us all that is good; and because Your holy name, and not we ourselves, should receive all the praise, forever.

Q. What does that little word “Amen” express?

A. Amen means, this is sure to be! It is even more sure that God listens to my prayer, than that I really desire what I pray for.

***Hymn of Adoration:** 184 “*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*”

Call to Confession: *Zechariah 1:3* – Therefore say to them, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts: “Return to Me,” says the LORD of hosts, “and I will return to you,” says the LORD of hosts.

Prayer of Confession: Father, have mercy for our hearts are rebellious. We have attempted to make friends with the world and the devil and have allowed ourselves to indulge our own flesh. We have not been diligent in seeking Your help so that we do not fall prey

to the devices of the evil one. Our lack of vigilance shows the weakness of our love for You and how apt we are to doubt You are good. Our hearts and affections are surely corrupt. Teach us to rely on Your Holy Spirit for wisdom to recognize Satan’s ploys and for conviction to resist them. Cleanse and forgive us. By Your grace, renew our hearts and fix them on Your eternal kingdom and satisfy us by Your power and glory. We pray in Jesus’ Name. Amen.

Have Mercy:

Have mercy on us. Have mercy on us.

Oh Lord, have mercy. Oh Lord, have mercy.

Oh, help my unbelief. Oh, help my unbelief.

Oh Lord, have mercy. Oh Lord, have mercy.

Assurance of Pardon: *Micah 7:18-19* – Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in mercy. He will again have compassion on us, and will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gloria Patri: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Collect of the Day (unison): Almighty God, stir up your power. Establish, enlarge, and strengthen Your Son’s kingdom. We praise You for You are sovereign over all nature and all people. Remove from our lives whatever hinders our full participation in this glorious, eternal kingdom. May our King be magnified in our lives together. We pray in the Name of Jesus, who lives and reigns forever. Amen.

***Old Testament Lesson:** *Habakkuk 3:17-19*

¹⁷ Though the fig tree may not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines; though the labor of the olive may fail, and the fields yield no food; though the flock may be cut off from the fold, and there be no herd in the stalls—

¹⁸ Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

¹⁹ The LORD God is my strength; He will make my feet like deer’s feet, and He will make me walk on my high hills.

***Gospel Lesson:** *Matthew 1:18-25* (page 849)

Children's Sermon

***Hymn of Preparation:** *Psalms 24:1-10* (back of bulletin)

Sermon: *Matthew 1:18-25* (Part 2)

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer (unison): 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 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.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

***Offertory Response:** Doxology

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below; praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Hymn of Response:** 178 *"O Little Town of Bethlehem"*

***Benediction**

***Threefold Amen**

***Postlude**