

“The Candle of Love /Christmas Sunday”

Meditation Preached by The Rev. Jennifer Cameron

December 19, 2021 – St. Columba Presbyterian Church, Belleville

Hymns for Worship Video – December 19, 2021

“Hope is a Star” #119 in the Book of Praise

V. 1 Hope is a star that shines in the night

Leading us on till the morning is bright

Chorus

When God is a child there’s join in our song

The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong

And none shall be afraid

V. 2 Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth

Giving a promise of safety and worth

Chorus

V. 3 Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn

Telling the world that the Saviour is born

Chorus

V. 4 Love is a flame that burns in our heart

Jesus has come and will never depart

Chorus

Words: Brian A. Wren © 1989 by Hope Publishing Co.

Music: Joan Collier Fogg © 1989 by Hope Publishing Co.

“While Shepherds Watched” #138 in the Book of Praise

V. 1 While shepherds watched

Their flocks by night

All seated on the ground

The angel of the Lord came down

And glory shone around

V. 2 Fear not said he for mighty dread

Had seized their troubled mind

Glad tidings of great joy I bring

To you all humankind

V. 3 To you in David's town this day
Is born of David's line
A Saviour who is Christ the Lord
And this shall be the sign

V. 4 The heavenly babe you there shall find
To human view displayed
All meanly wrapped in swaddling bands
And in a manger laid

V. 5 Thus spake the seraph and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God who thus
Addressed their joyful song

V. 6 All glory be to God on high
And on the earth be peace
Goodwill hence forth
From heaven to earth
Begin and never cease

Nahum Tate
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“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” #139 in the Book of Praise

V. 1 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

V. 2 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 on earth with us to dwell
Jesus our Emmanuel
Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King

V. 3 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 we no more may die
Born to raise the lost of earth
Born to give them second birth
Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King

Charles Wesley | Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy
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“’Twas in the Moon of Wintertime” #144 in the Book of Praise

V. 1 ‘Twas in the moon of wintertime when all the birds had fled
That mighty Gitche Manitou sent angel choirs instead
Before their light the stars grew dim and wandering hunters heard the hymn:

Chorus

Jesus your King is born
Jesus is born
In excelsis gloria

V. 2 Within a lodge of broken bark the tender Babe was found
A ragged robe of rabbit skin enwrapped his beauty round
But as the hunter braves drew nigh the angel song rang loud and high:

Chorus

V. 3 The earliest moon of wintertime is not so round and fair
As was the ring of glory on the helpless infant there
The chiefs from far before him knelt with gifts of fox and beaverpelt

Chorus

V. 4 O children of the forest free the kin of Manitou

The holy child of earth and heaven is born this day for you

Come kneel before the radiant boy who brings you beauty, peace and joy:

Chorus

Words: Huron, Jean de Brebeuf, translation © the Frederick Harris Music Co. Ltd

Music: arrangement, © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship

Closing Chorus: "Emmanuel" #114 in the Book of Praise

Emmanuel Emmanuel

His name is called Emmanuel

God with us revealed in us

His name is called Emmanuel

Bob McGee

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Scripture Texts: Psalm 96

¹ O sing to the Lord a new song;

 sing to the Lord, all the earth.

² Sing to the Lord, bless his name;

 tell of his salvation from day to day.

³ Declare his glory among the nations,

 his marvelous works among all the peoples.

⁴ For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;

 he is to be revered above all gods.

⁵ For all the gods of the peoples are idols,

 but the Lord made the heavens.

⁶ Honor and majesty are before him;

 strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

⁷ Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,

 ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

⁸ Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;

 bring an offering, and come into his courts.

⁹ Worship the Lord in holy splendor;

 tremble before him, all the earth.

¹⁰ Say among the nations, "The Lord is king!

 The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.

 He will judge the peoples with equity."

¹¹ Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;

 let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

¹² let the field exult, and everything in it.

Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy

¹³ before the Lord; for he is coming,

 for he is coming to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness,

 and the peoples with his truth.

Second Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;

⁵ and he shall be the one of peace.

Third Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

There is no meditation to print this week as I will be reading a story from a book of Christmas stories.