



Murray Presbyterian Church

*December 1st, 2024 10am Worship
1st Sunday of Advent*

Welcome and Announcements

Greeting One Another Ringing of the Tower Bell

The Lighting of the Hope Advent Candle

Song: "A Candle is Burning."

**A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,
A candle of hope in December's dark night,
While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky,
Our hearts we prepare now for Jesus are nigh.**

*Call to Worship:

Leader: God of heavenly hosts, send forth your legions of angels from the realms of glory. Come, Advent angels seen and unseen, wing your celestial flight over us as we proclaim and worship the Lord's Holy Incarnation.

People: Let us worship the coming Christ, God with us, with joyful expectation.

*Hymn: : "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (PH 9)

Call to Confession:

Leader: Heavenly Angels are not in need of confession. It is we mortals who have feet of clay. Daily we are prone to stumble. We admit that we have all fallen short of God's Glory. Let us confess our sins of omission and commission, praying together in unison ...

Prayer of Confession:

People: It doesn't take nudging Angels to tell us that we have gone astray or that our haloes have slipped a bit this week. No, Gracious God, truth is, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide from you , and too deep to undo without you. Holy God, set us free from a past we cannot change; open us to a future in which we can be changed and grant us the grace to grow more and more into your likeness through Jesus Christ, our Lord, and by the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

Silent Reflection

Assurance of Pardon

*Congregational Response: Gloria Patri

The Psalter: Psalm 8:1-5 and Psalm 91:9-12

Gospel Reading: Matthew 1:18-23

Sermon: "Angels; Messengers and Helpers from God"
Rev Heidi McGinness

*Hymn: "Angels from the Realms of Glory" (PH 22)

Offering

*Doxology

*Prayer of Dedication

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

*The Song: "Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine" (PH 341, vv.1-2)

Invitation

Great Thanksgiving:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty. . . . And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts

The whole earth is full of his glory

The whole earth is full of his glory

The whole earth is full of his glory

Holy is the Lord

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. . .

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Table

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

*Hymn: "Song of Hope" (Canto de Esperanza) (PH 432, sung twice)

*Benediction and Benediction Response

*Please Stand if Able

WC: Worshipping Church Hymnal (found on seat) PH: Presbyterian Hymnal (found in pew rack)

Announcements

Guest Preacher

This morning, we are delighted to welcome the Reverend Heidi McGinness back into the pulpit of Murray Presbyterian Church. Pastor Heidi began her first ordained call serving the Murray Presbyterian Church thirty-five years ago today (December 1, 1989) and continued serving until October 1992, when she accepted a call to become pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Bellevue. Following another pastorate in Denver, Colorado Reverend Heidi assisted the South Sudanese Underground Railroad and a Swiss Human Rights organization in bringing thousands of Christians out of slavery in North Sudan and returning them to their families and churches in South Sudan.

Since 2018 Reverend Heidi has traveled twice to East Africa to visit a Presbyterian refugee camp and currently continues helping the Lord deliver humanitarian aid to churches in the border areas of Sudan. She also helps her son, Arok, who has visited the Murray Church and spoken about the orphans he rescues from the camp. In Omaha, she volunteers at the Stephen Center for the homeless with her Rotarian colleagues. Reverend Heidi is thrilled to be back to worship with us today and offers a special thank you to Reverend Bill, the Session, and each of you for the privilege.

Angel Tree

Our congregation has once again volunteered to provide Christmas gifts for some local families in need. If you can provide one or more items, please take tags from the angel tree on the back table.

Murray Presbyterian Church

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