

GET READY FOR WORSHIP

December 20, 2020

4th Sunday of Advent

During the period of online worship, our worship style is simplified, with no musical liturgy, but with hymns and/or songs. The texts of hymns and songs will be printed in this online bulletin where they appear in the order of worship. You are encouraged to sing along at home with the accompaniment from the musician at church.

When we worship from the parking lot, the radio frequency that you can hear the worship service is 94.3FM.

This is a time to bust forth fully in song without worrying about being heard by the congregation, which should encourage some of the more shy singers among you, and to give full prayerful voice to fear or sorrow, supplications for mercy, and of course, to trust, hope and praise.

HOW WE SHALL RECEIVE COMMUNION

Members are encouraged to have gathered both bread and wine or grape juice in the space where family members will gather for worship, so that everyone may participate in the full liturgy of the Eucharist. Even if you are alone in your home, please partake of the body and blood of Christ in the forms of bread and wine. We are together in the Body of Christ, by God's loving Spirit, even when we are not present with another in our own flesh.

24th Sunday of Pentecost

Sunday

December 20, 2020

Accompanist

Diane Rauser

Liturgists

Lois Kern & George Stevens

ELW= the red hymn book underneath your seat. Hymns are located in the back of the book. A pew Bible is also located beneath your seat.

Gathering

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved.
Amen.

Holy One,
we confess that we are not awake for you.
We are not faithful in using your gifts.
We forget the least of our siblings.
We do not see your beautiful image in one another.
We are infected by sin
that divides your beloved community.
Open our hearts to your coming,
open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,
open our hands to serve your creation. **Amen.**

Beloved, we are God's children,
and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.
Through † Jesus you are forgiven,
by Jesus you are welcome,
in Jesus you are called to rejoice!
Let us live in the promises prepared for us
from the foundation of the world.
Amen.

Gathering Song: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

ELW 257
verses 1,2,6,7

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Wisdom from on high,
embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay;
teach us your will and guide our way. *Refrain*

O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*

O come, O King of nations, come,
O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you;
restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*

Liturgy of the Word

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Reader 1

Jane McCurdy

Listen to the Gospel according to Luke:

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."

But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God."

Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

(Luke 1:26-38)

Advent is about love. Francis Bacon once wrote: “A crowd is not company, faces are but a gallery of pictures, and talk is but a tinkling cymbal, where there is no love.”

We are social beings. That is our blessing and our curse. We long for each other. We long to touch, to share, to bare some part of ourselves, to be understood, to invite others into our lives. We all long to lessen the loneliness that lurks in the background of even our most crowded moments.

We are born alone and we will ultimately die alone, but in between we desperately want to be known, to be understood, to belong, to find some kind of acceptance just as we are—some intimacy of soul. And so we reach out with fragile, delicate efforts of love.

But love is dangerous. We can hurt each other. Hearts can be broken. Rejection can come. If you try to belong, you can be excluded, and that can hurt more than being alone.

Love, and the vulnerability that comes with it, can be the riskiest business of all. But there is no love without such risks. Like hunger and thirst, the longing for love is implanted deeply within us, and God offers us many opportunities to care, to reach out, and to love.

Candle-lighting

Light four candles to watch for Messiah:

Let the light banish darkness.

He is coming, tell the glad tidings.

Let your lights be shining!

Pastor

There is some part of this gift of life that can't be stored up or locked away. Some part of this spirit that God has placed in us will die if we do not spend it or share it or give it away.

Love is always a risk, but it is a risk upon which the very heart of our life depends. To love is to touch, and be touched by, the heart of God. To look into the eyes of another and recognize our common soul is to see the face of God. Even to feel the ache of a heart broken for love is to discover God's grace.

Kyrie



A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **G** Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:



A Chri - ste e - le - i - son: **G** Christ, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy:



A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **G** Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

READING: 2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16

¹Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God

stays in a tent.” ³Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.”

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?” ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Special Music *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*

Gospel Acclamation:



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: LUKE 1: 46B-55

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 1st chapter.

Mary response to God's message through the angel:

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:

⁴⁹you, the Almighty, have done great things for me
and holy is your name.

⁵⁰You have mercy on those who fear you,
from generation to generation.

⁵¹You have shown strength with your arm
and scattered the proud in their conceit,

⁵²casting down the mighty from their thrones
and lifting up the lowly.

⁵³You have filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,
to remember the promise of mercy,

⁵⁵the promise made to our forbears,
to Abraham and his children forever.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Sermon

Keri Bolles

Sermon

Pastor Heidi

Hymn of the Day: *Here I Am, Lord*

ELW 574

"I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?"

Refrain

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

"I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?" *Refrain*

"I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?" *Refrain*

Apostles Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was
crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the
third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is
seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the
communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of
the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer of the church

Liturgy of the Meal

During this season of online worship, we ask you to bring your gifts and offerings to your gathering table at home in the same way as in worship in the church, before sending them on to the church.

Offering:

Offering Prayer

God of grace, you have showered us with gifts of grace and abundance, entrusting to us the ministries of Women of the ELCA. Help us to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing in the church, the society, and the world. Accept these gifts and our prayer that, nurtured by your Word, filled with your Spirit, and fed at your table, we may share with gladness all that you have shared with us, until all creation is satisfied..

Amen

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Eucharist Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those

who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

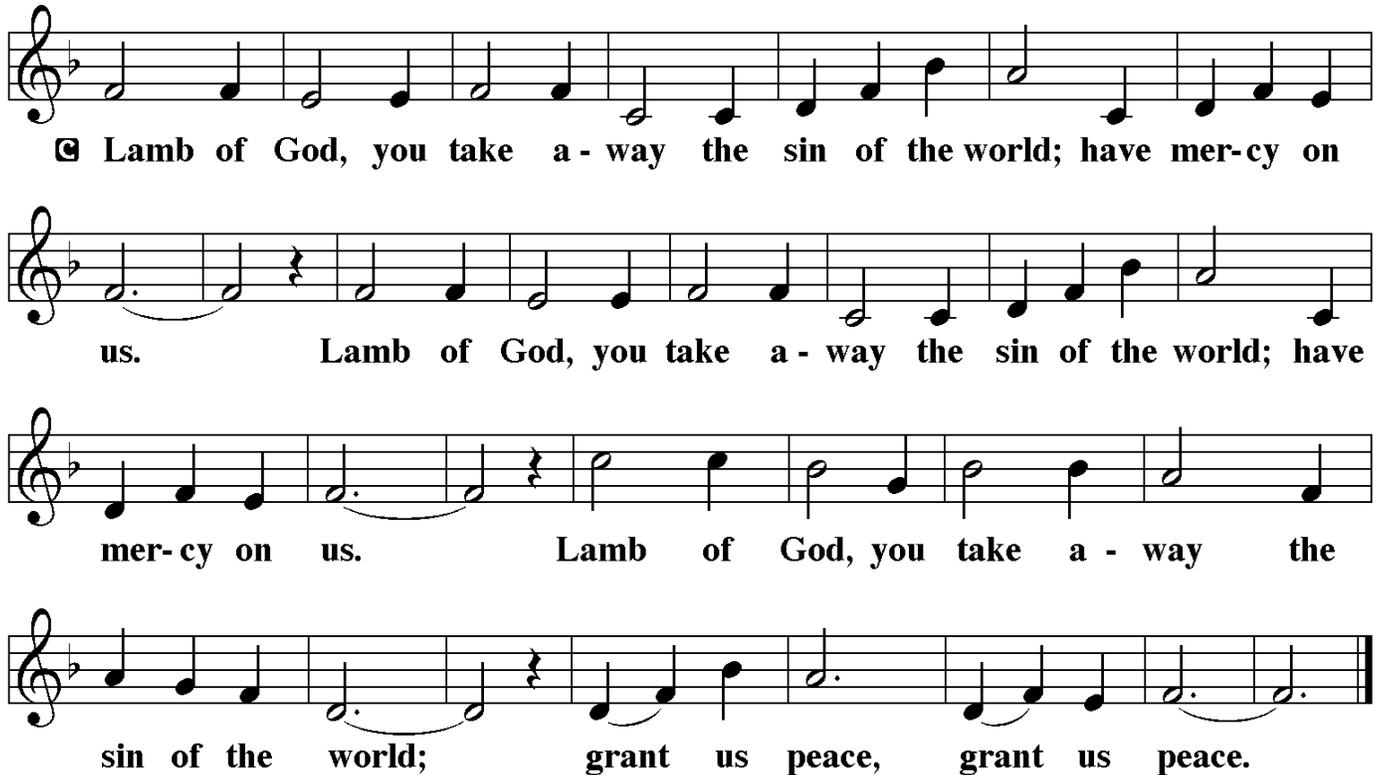
and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen.

Communion

If you are communing from home, offer each other the bread with these words "The Body of Christ given for you" and the wine with "The blood of Christ shed for you."

Communion Song: *Lamb of God*



♩ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray:

Your love, O God, is great, and the risks you have taken were supreme.

Teach us the way of love, and help us to walk in it.

From the depths of your creating love, you made us male and female.

Teach us the way of love, and help us to walk in it.

In the goodness of your covenant, you created us a community of your love.

Teach us the way of love, and help us to walk in it.

In the fullness of time you sent us Jesus, a man of love that risked all for the sake of the world.

Teach us the way of love, and help us to walk in it.

In your resurrection power, you have revealed your love to all humanity.

Teach us the way of love, and help us to walk in it.

Help us, O God, to reveal your love as we discover anew the tremendous power of the Christmas story and meet again the Christ-child, born anew among us.

Amen and Amen.

Sending

Canticle

☞ Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -
one what God has done. Let all who seek the
Lord re - jice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.
Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and
lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

Blessing

May the God of all creation,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved,
who strengthens us for service,
give you reason to rejoice and be glad!
The blessing of God,
Sovereign, ✚ Savior, and Spirit,
be with you today and always.

Amen.

Hymn: *Send Me, Jesus*

ELW 809

(Send me, Lord.)

Send me, Jesus, send me, Jesus,
send me, Jesus, send me, Lord.

(Lead me, Lord.)

Lead me, Jesus, lead me, Jesus,
lead me, Jesus, lead me, Lord.

(Fill me, Lord.)

Fill me, Jesus, fill me, Jesus,
fill me, Jesus, fill me, Lord.

Dismissal

Rejoice and be glad in the light of God's love!

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Monday, December 21

Luke 1: 6b - 55

1 Samuel 1: 1-18

Hebrews 9: 1-14

Tuesday, December 22

Luke 1: 46b - 55

1 Samuel 2: 1-10

Hebrews 8: 1-13

Wednesday, December 23

Luke 1: 46b - 55

1 Samuel 2: 1-10

Mark 11: 1-11

Thursday, December 24

Isaiah 9: 2-7

Psalm 96

Titus 2: 11-14

Luke 2: 1-20

Friday, December 25

Isaiah 52: 7-10

Psalm 98

Hebrews 1: 1-12

John 1: 1-14

Saturday, December 26

Psalm 148

Jeremiah 26: 1-9, 12-15

Acts 6: 8-15; 7:51-60

Sunday, December 27

Isaiah 61: 10 – 62: 3

Psalm 148

Galatians 4: 4-7

Luke 2: 2: 22-40

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

We encourage our members to take appropriate steps to protect their health and prevent the spread of any illness:

- Cover your nose and mouth with tissues when you cough or sneeze and then place, don't throw, the tissue in the trash after use.
- Wash hands often and thoroughly with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing. Alcohol-based hand sanitizer is also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth to protect yourself from infection.
- Improve your immune system by getting enough rest, exercise regularly, and eat healthy.
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