

## Advent 4: December 20, 2020

### Gathering

Handbell Prelude: *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* Polish carol arr. Cathy Moglebust

Opening Hymn: "Savior of the Nations, Come" (v. 1, 3, 5, 7)

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|---|--|
| 1 Savior of the nations, come;<br>Show the glory of the Son!<br>Ev'ry people, stand in awe;<br>Praise the perfect Son of God. | 5 He leaves heaven to return;<br>Trav'ling where dull hellfires burn;<br>Riding out, returning home<br>As the Savior who has come.         |
| 3 Wondrous birth! Oh, wondrous child<br>Of the virgin undefiled!<br>Mighty God and man in one,<br>Eager now his race to run!  | 7 Shining stable in the night,<br>Breathing vict'ry with your light;<br>Darkness cannot hide your flame,<br>Shining bright as Jesus' name. |

### Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be God, Father, ✙ Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever.

C: **Amen.**

P: Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Loving and forgiving God,

C: **we confess that we are held captive by sin.  
In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray.  
We have not welcomed the stranger;  
we have not loved our neighbor;  
we have not been Christ to one another.  
Restore us, O God.  
Wake us up and turn us from our sin.  
Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.**

P: People of God, hear this glad news: by God’s endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free—free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God’s love, ✝ comforted by Christ’s peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

## Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. 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.

C: **Amen.**

## The Word

### Blessing of the Lector

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, your Word became flesh and dwelled among us. Bless John, who will now read to us the Scriptures, that your Word may dwell in our hearts and wake us to your coming in Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

### First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

<sup>1</sup> Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup> the 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.” <sup>3</sup> Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.”

<sup>4</sup> But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: <sup>5</sup> Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? <sup>6</sup> I 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. <sup>7</sup> Wherever 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?” <sup>8</sup> Now

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; <sup>9</sup> and 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. <sup>10</sup> And 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, <sup>11</sup> from 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. <sup>16</sup> Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Psalmody

*Annunciation & Magnificat from Holden Evening Prayer*

Marty Haugen

## Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

<sup>25</sup> Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup> but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—<sup>27</sup> to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Special Music: “Light an Advent Candle”

Becki Stagle Mayo

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

P: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. In your Son, Emmanuel, you have shown us your light and saved us from the power of sin.

**C: Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath.**

P: Increase our longing for your presence, that at the celebration of your Son’s birth his Spirit might dwell anew in our midst, for he is our light and our salvation.

**C: Blessed be God forever. Amen.**

## The Holy Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

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

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth,  
<sup>27</sup> to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's  
name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with  
you." <sup>29</sup> But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this  
might be. <sup>30</sup> The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.  
<sup>31</sup> And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.  
<sup>32</sup> 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. <sup>33</sup> He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of  
his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup> Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a vir-  
gin?" <sup>35</sup> 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. <sup>36</sup> 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. <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God."  
<sup>38</sup> 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.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Children's Sermon

### Sermon

*Silence for reflection and meditation*

## Hymn of the Day: "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"

- 1 The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
with wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:  
"All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,  
most highly favored lady." Gloria!
- 2 "For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,  
all generations laud and honor thee;  
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,  
most highly favored lady." Gloria!

- 3 Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;  
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said.  
"My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name."  
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!
- 4 Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born  
in Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,  
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:  
"Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

## The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**  
**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**  
**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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.**

## The Prayers of Intercession

*After each petition:*

- A:** Lord, in your mercy,
- C:** Hear our prayer.

## The Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

## Offering Prayer

*Please stand as you are able.*

A: God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, Emmanuel, God with us.

**C: Amen.**

## The Meal

### The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

## The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who 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,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## Invitation to Communion

P: Rejoice, highly favored ones, for Christ gives you himself in this meal.  
The Body of Christ, broken for you.  
The Blood of Christ, shed for you.

*All eat bread and drink wine or juice at their seat.*

## Communion Hymn: "Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel" (v. 1, 2, 5)

1 Oh, come, oh, 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.

2 Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might,  
who to your tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times once gave the law  
in cloud, and majesty, and awe. *Refrain*

5 Oh, come, O Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heav'nly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery. *Refrain*

## Table Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: **Amen.**

## Prayer after Communion

A: God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of the day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

## Sending

### Blessing

P: The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, ✝ now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

### Closing Hymn: "Hark, the Glad Sound!"

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,<br>the Savior promised long;<br>let ev'ry heart prepare a throne<br>and ev'ry voice a song. | 3 He comes the broken heart to bind,<br>the bleeding soul to cure,<br>and with the treasures of his grace<br>to enrich the humble poor. |
| 2 He comes the pris'ners to release,<br>in Satan's bondage held.<br>The gates of brass before him burst,<br>the iron fetters yield.   | 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,<br>your welcome shall proclaim,<br>and heav'n's eternal arches ring<br>with your beloved name.    |

### Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Handbell Postlude: *The Lord is Nigh*

arr. Sharon Elery Rogers

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## Worship Leaders

The Rev. Emily Beckering, Pastor

Kris Keith, Music Director

Kate Wollenburg, Organist

Noah Moorhouse, Assisting Minister

John Cathcart, Reader

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## Upcoming Events

**Sunday, December 20: 4th Sunday of Advent**      **Sunday, December 27: 1st Sunday after Christmas**

10:30 am Worship (in-person and  
livestreamed)

11:30 am Lessons & Carols readers’ rehearsal

4 pm Christmas Caroling on Zoom

**Monday, December 21**

**\*\*Epistle Articles Deadline\*\***

7 pm Christmas Eve quartet rehearsal

**Tuesday, December 22**

4 pm Bible Study on Zoom

**Thursday, December 24**

6:45 pm Special Music

7 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

*Thank you for worshiping with us today.*

*To give your offering through our website, please visit [stpaulreading.org/online-giving/](http://stpaulreading.org/online-giving/)*

## Our Life Together

For emergency pastoral care, please call the after-hours line at 513-760-5884.

If you have requests for the Prayer Chain, call Penny Huber, 513-931-6420. To remove people from the list, contact the office.

We pray for **Mary and her granddaughter Kyra** (friend of Paul Pieper); **Berkeley** (Carol Curless's great-grandson); **Pr. Lisa Bernheisel**; **Louise Barry**; **Teresa Bell** (former member); **Stephen Black** (Kim Coulehan's nephew); **Bobby** (Christian Lohmeier's friend); **Nancy Bose** (Kathy Hirt's friend); **Brett** (Kings' step-nephew); **Nicole Bucknam** (friend of Millers); **Jodie Calhoun**; **Christian**; **Frances Clemons** (Portmanns' friend); **Kathy Curless**; **Katie Demopoulos** (Diana Hawkins's niece); **Dick** (Linda Miller's brother); **Jeremy Doan** (Jean Winkle's grandson); **Jerry Doan** (Jean Winkle's son-in-law); **Lee Erbeck**; **Larry Faulkner** (Freda's son); **Justin Feldman** (Bess Sturgill's father); **Micki Ford** (Fords' niece); **Jeanne Fuller**; **Scarlett Gally** (Beth Wernery's great-niece); **Clara Garcia** (Cindy Mayhugh's sister); **George and Sherry** (Shirley Harbaugh's cousins); **Nathaniel Gibson** (Les Eckerle's step-nephew); **Steve Gollehon** (Elinor Schieman's cousin); **Hannah**; **Matthew Harrison** (Seals' neighbor); **Sandy Hatcher** (Linda Holt's sister); **Elain Heskamp**; **Richard Hoffman** (Cindy Mayhugh's brother); **Andrew Horton**; **Mary Ann Hudecki** (Linda Miller's sister), **Ellen Hunter** (Jeni Cathcart's grandmother); **Jo and her daughter** (Jeanne Fuller's friends); **Joan** (Penny Huber's friend); **Kate** (granddaughter of Dennis King's friend); **Dennis King**; **Jay King** (son of Jamie King); **Loretta Kombrink** (Marilyn Portmann's aunt); **Lewis Laine** (Chet Laine's brother); **Richard Lane** (Elinor Schieman's nephew); **Nelson Langefeld**; **Yvonne Lowery** (St. Paul Players); **Revea and Jim Mayhew** (Millers' sister & brother-in-law); **Carroll Mayhugh Sr.** (Carroll Mayhugh's father); **Samantha Mersch** (Mayhughs' daughter, Sarah Papin's sister); **Ann Miller** (Millers' niece); **Jessica Mink** (Donald Harris's cousin); **Doris Minton**; **Barbara Moorhouse**; **Jean Nolte**; **Ervin Oerther** (Portmanns' brother-in-law); **Ann Ohr** (Barbara Moorhouse's cousin); **Richard Osborn** (Betty Pack's brother); **Rosie Osborn** (Betty Pack's sister); **Eric Papin**; **Christian & Suzie Pereira** (Carolyn Koehl's granddaughter & grandson-in-law); **Richard Peterson** (Shirley Harbaugh's brothers); **Don Pflieger** (Kings' brother-in-law); **Ginny Pape**; **Linda Perin** (Moorhouses' cousin); **Paul Pieper**; **Faith Pirrmann**; **Pat Popplewell** (Dennis King's friend); **James Savoy** (Jean Winkle's great-grandson); **Shawn Schnetzer** (Sturgills' cousin); **Sheila Schultz** (Betty Pack's friend); **Brenda Schumacher** (Marilyn Portmann's friend); **Shannon and Dane** (friends of Riddle family); **Shear family** (Kings' daughter & son-in-law); **Kate Sheridan** (Kings' family friend); **Keith Shupe** (father of Kelly Shupe); **Jason Simpson** (Freda Faulkner's grand-nephew); **Patricia Smith**

(Teresa Bell's mother); **Scott Songer; Judy Songer** (friends of Jean Winkle); **Crosley Spelman** (Spelmans' grandson); **Frank Sturgill** (Jim's dad); **Britney Jean Teems** (Jean Winkle's granddaughter); **Teresa** (friend of Marty Lohmeier); **Randy Thaman** (friend of Marie Calhoun); **Geri Toland** (Carole Replogle's neighbor); **Treasure** (Les Eckerle's cousin); **Ralph Turner** (friend of Dennis King); **Tereasa Vogel** (Freda Faulkner's friend); **Jack Wagner; Jeanne Wagner; Daryl Wesselman** (Betty Pack's granddaughter); **Jean Winkle; Susan Winkle** (Jean Winkle's daughter-in-law); **Mike and Lou Zecchini** (Minton/Betsch in-laws).

We pray for those with ongoing health concerns who are unable to come to church every week: **Louise Barry, Barbara Moorhouse, Jean Nolte, Heather Segar.**

We pray for our armed forces members: **Graham Barton** (Fords' neighbor); **Paul Cordes** (Elinor Schieman's grandson); **Victoria Derry** (Elinor Schieman's great-granddaughter); **Jared Forst** (Jim and Loretta's grandson); **Beau Glenn** (Karen Koehl's son-in-law); **Kylie Hahn** (Gretta Hahn's granddaughter); **Donald Hosea** (Karen Koehl's son); **Samuel McLoughlin** (friend of Cindy Sieckman); **Scott Minton** (Doris Minton's son); **Jobeth Ramirez** (friend of Karen Koehl); **Joshua Rodriguez** (friend of Karen Koehl); **Trent Schwegman** (cousin to the Erbecks and Fords); **Dustin Silvey; Mack Thompson** (Freda Faulkner's grandson); **Alex Wisecup** (son of Nadin and Barry Wisecup).