



Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 20, 2020

Prelude

Song: King Of My Heart

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

OPENING PRAYER & OFFERING OF CONFESSION

P: I will sing about the wonders of your love forever, O God! *(Based on Ps. 89)*

I will tell everyone I meet about your faithfulness to all generations!

I will declare that your love stands firm,
that your faithfulness is as enduring as the heavens above!

Blessed are those who know you as their God,
for they walk in the light of your presence!

C: Come quickly, Lord Jesus.

(Silence for Reflection)

C: O Holy God of Promise, we so often place our trust in the things we can see, and touch, and easily believe. But you did not ask us to believe what is easy, you have asked us to believe what is true! Forgive us, Holy One, when we doubt the ways you work. Forgive us when we find it hard to believe an ancient story. Forgive us we question how you chose to enter the world, born as one of us. Forgive our lack of faith and belief in ways which seem so impossible to believe. Help us to look in faith, open our belief, and set aside our doubts that you sent your Son, born of a virgin – the one who has come to set us all free. We offer these prayers in the name of your Son, Immanuel, God with us. Amen.

GIFT OF ABSOLUTION

P: In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus was given to die for us and forgive us all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Be loved in the faithfulness of His fellowship with you.

C: Amen

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

**All: Loving God, we open ourselves to you this Christmas season.
As these candles are lit, light our lives with your imagination.
Show us the creative power of hope.
Teach us the peace that comes from justice.
Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared.
Magnify your love within us.
Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,
That we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.**

SHARING THE PEACE OF THE LORD

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

C: And also with you!

P: We greet one another in the peace of the Lord.

You are welcome to greet each other as forgiven brothers and sisters in Jesus, in your homes and in our chat, or send a text to someone you know sharing the peace of Jesus is for them.

READINGS

A Reading from 2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16

⁷ After the king was settled in his palace and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ² he said to Nathan the prophet, “Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent.”

³ Nathan replied to the king, “Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the LORD is with you.”

⁴ But that night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying:

⁵ “Go and tell my servant David, ‘This is what the LORD says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in? ⁶ I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. ⁷ Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?” ’

⁸ “Now then, tell my servant David, ‘This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. ⁹ I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. ¹⁰ And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning ¹¹ and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.

“The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you:

¹⁶ Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.”

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

A Reading from Romans 16:25–27

²⁵ Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, ²⁶ but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith—²⁷ to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

A: The Holy Gospel according St. Luke, the 1st Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

³⁴ “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

³⁵ The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For no word from God will ever fail.”

³⁸ “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

A: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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SERMON

P: Let us confess our faith together using the words of the Apostles’ Creed.

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Song: This Is Love

PRAYERS

A: Lord in Your mercy

C: Hear our prayer.

P: In thankful love, we pray:

ALL: 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 for ever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

A: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Hymn: Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

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Lector: Dale Trapp

Production: Dan Savard

Music | Liturgy:

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