



Sunday, December 20, 2020
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Welcome & Announcements

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever. **Amen.**

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

Loving and forgiving God, **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.**

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. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vs. 1,5,6)

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

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

O Come, O Dayspring, come and cheer; O Son of justice, now draw near
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

L: The Lord be with you. C: **And also with you.**

L: Let us pray.

C: **Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

L: We praise you, O God, for these lights that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.

C: **As we light these candles, open our eyes to see your presence in the lowly ones of this earth. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may sing of your advent among us in the Word-made-flesh. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Light one candle on the wreath. Light one candle of hope;
Hope for the world to calm its fear, hope for the news we long to hear,
Hope in a child who will soon appear. Light one candle of hope.**

**Light one candle on the wreath. Light one candle of faith;
Faith that can heal a world in need, faith that can conquer hate and greed,
Faith in a child who will come to lead. Light one candle of faith.**

**Light one candle on the wreath. Light one candle of love;
Love that will teach the world to care, love that surrounds us everywhere,
Love in a child who will help us share. Light one candle of love.**

**Light one candle on the wreath. Light one candle of peace;
Peace that will free the world from war, peace that will last for evermore,
Peace through the child we are waiting for. Light one candle of peace.**

Scripture Readings

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

Now when David the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, 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." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? 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. 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?" 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; 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. 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, 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. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

L: Word of God; word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 89:1-4,19-26

I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever;
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;
your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

You said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one,
I have sworn to my servant David:

‘I will establish your descendants forever,
and build your throne for all generations.’”

Then you spoke in a vision to your faithful one, and said:

“I have set the crown on one who is mighty,
I have exalted one chosen from the people.

I have found my servant David;
with my holy oil I have anointed him;
my hand shall always remain with him;
my arm also shall strengthen him.

The enemy shall not outwit him,
the wicked shall not humble him.

I will crush his foes before him
and strike down those who hate him.

My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with him;
and in my name his horn shall be exalted.

I will set his hand on the sea
and his right hand on the rivers.

He shall cry to me, ‘You are my Father,
my God, and the Rock of my salvation!’

L: Word of God; word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation o/f Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages 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—to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

L: Word of God; word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 1st Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Message: Pastor Dwight Rudquist

Sermon Notes:

Hymn of the Day: Savior of the Nations, Come

Savior of the nations, come; virgin's son, make here your home.
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth: God has chosen such a birth.

Not by human flesh and blood, but the mystic Breath of God,
was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of woman, blossom fresh.

Wondrous birth oh, wondrous child- from his throne, a virgin mild!
Very God, and Mary's son, eager now his race to run!

From God's heart the Savior speeds, back to God his pathway leads;
out to vanquish death's command, back to reign at God's right hand.

Now your manger, shining bright, hallows night with newborn light.
Night cannot this subdue; let our faith shine ever new.

Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, virgin's son, incarnate Word!
To the holy Trinity praise we sing eternally!

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.

Prayers

P: Hear us, O God, C: **Your mercy is great.**

Holy Communion

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper. **Amen.**

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

Distribution of Elements

Communion Hymn: Here I Am, Lord (vs 1&3)

"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?"

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 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?"

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.

Post Communion Blessing & Prayer

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

Let us pray. Gracious and abundant God, you have done great things for us, and we rejoice. In this bread and cup you give us life forever. In your boundless mercy, strengthen us and open our hearts to the world's needs, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

The Benediction & Dismissal

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. **Amen.**

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Closing Hymn: Love Has Come

Love has come-- a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.

See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises:

Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

Love is born! Come, share in the wonder. Love is God now asleep in the hay.

See the glow in the eyes of his mother; what is the name her heart is saying?

Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers; Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free.

Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.

Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!



PRAYERCARE Dave Danberg, Geri Swenson and the family of Andy Swenson, the family of Duane Rudquist, Caroline Greene, Nia Glynn, the family of Doris Fors, Ann Rue, Helen Swanson, the Hackmann Family, the family of Joe Mallery, Dan Petersen, Julie Valez, the family of Margaret Dale, Marcielle Rogers, Cleo Stomberg, the family of Brian Maloney, Leo Nelson, Caren Carlson, Rose Anderson, Gail Johnson & the rest of David Clow’s family, Yutaro Nakanishi, the family of Annie Lindgren, Cheryl Slattengren, the family of John Solheim, Deb & Jerry Rhoads and family of Marilyn Burnes, Darlene & Don Mueller and family, Donna Lindgren, Don Grover and Vicki Ford.

Intergenerational Faith Formation:

- **Swedish Word of the Month:**
God Jul - Happy Christmas
- **December Book Recording** Watch Joy Buchholtz read “Annika’s Secret Wish” The video is available on our YouTube channel and on our website.
- **12 Days of Christmas** packet available to be mailed out to families. If you have a youth prayer partner, we invite you to stop in on Monday to pick up the packet to mail out! Include a Christmas card!!! Call Angie in the office for more information!
- **ELCA Good Gifts** We raised \$607.93! That equals 5 goats + 5 flocks of chicks, 1 pair of goats and 10 honeybees.
- **Dove Craft from Nov. 8th** We’d love to see where you hung your craft. Please send us a picture of your dove!!
- **Christmas Star on Dec. 21st** *As Christmas nears, look to the sky to witness a great conjunction not seen in almost 800 years. Jupiter and Saturn have been traveling across the sky together all year and during the first three weeks of December, the planets will continue to move closer after each sunset. They will look like two points of light, from Earth’s viewpoint, when they appear to nearly collide on Dec 21st (the date of winter solstice), forming a rare phenomenon known as a “Christmas star”. Weather permitting, you’ll be able to witness the event in the sky through binoculars or a small telescope, according to NASA. Find an unobstructed view and look towards the low, southwestern horizon right after sunset on Dec 21st. The best time is between dusk and about 15-20 minutes after dark. Such a close conjunction won’t happen again until early March 15, 2080.

Need Pastoral Care?

Call Pastor Dwight 651-829-4884

Have questions or in need of something?

Church Office: 651-465-5265

Office Hours:

Monday 12/21 8:30am - 1:30pm

Tuesday-Friday: Office Closed

Email: parishc@tflutheran.org

(this email is checked daily)

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Wendy Szczepanski

Craig Loen

Miriam Flysjo

Becky Hulden

Rose Anderson

Video Credits

Pastor Dwight Rudquist

Toni Brekke: Organ

Becky Hulden: Vocals

Kelly Luschen: Lector

Carli Linngren: Photography

Angie Linngren: Photography, Filming & Editing