



Advent 4, Dec. 20, 2020

Angel Voices

Gathering

It was hardly a time or situation to inspire song: she was pregnant but not yet married, young, vulnerable in an occupied land. In Mary's story and song Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people, all people. This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk where animals dwell. Life will no longer be as it was, but will be as God intends.

A time of prelude and prayer as we ready our hearts for worship

KYRIE

O Lord, have mercy and come to us. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Key of David and scepter of the house of Israel,

you open and no one can close, you close and no one can open:

Come and rescue the prisoners who are in darkness and the shadow of death.

O Dayspring, splendor of light everlasting:

Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

O King of the nations, the ruler they long for, the cornerstone uniting all people:

Come and save us all, whom you formed out of clay.

O Emmanuel, our King and our Lawgiver, the anointed of the nations and their Savior:

Come and save us, O Lord our God.

The sign of the cross may be made in remembrance of our Baptism.

Blessed be God: Father, Son, + and Holy Spirit.

and blessed be His kingdom, now and forever!

As we look to the advent of Christ, let us draw near to God with willing hearts,
confessing our sin before God and one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

We confess we are distracted, anxious and weary.

Yet we have not made time to seek your peace and light.

We have failed to do justice; we have not been Christ to one another.

We confess our sin and need to you, Lord, and we pray:

Have mercy! Open our hearts to your advent in our lives,

Strengthen us to walk in hope,

seek justice and peace for our families, our community,

and the world. Come, Lord Jesus!

In the mercy of almighty God, and by his authority, I tell you your sins are forgiven. May you know joy in the Savior's coming, in the Name of the Father, Son + and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

HYMN

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.**

Let us pray. *Silence* We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's coming. Make our hearts ready to welcome Christ into our lives, and give him our openhearted "Yes!" as Savior and King. Through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain, and whose day draws near. **Amen!**

The Word

The first reading is from Isaiah, the seventh chapter.

¹⁰The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹²But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. ¹³Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.” The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God!** (Isaiah 7:10-16)

Silence for Reflection

The Magnificat is read responsively by verse:

^{46b}My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
⁴⁸**for 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.
⁵⁰**You 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,
⁵²**casting 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.
⁵⁴**You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,
to remember the promise of mercy,**
⁵⁵the promise made to our forebears,
to Abraham and his children forever.
Amen.

Silence for Reflection

The second reading is from 1st Thessalonians, the fifth chapter.

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil.

²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this. The Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.** (1 Thessalonians 5:16-24)

Silence for Reflection

Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,
**The glory of our God shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of our God. Alleluia, Alleluia!**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the first chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

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

(Luke 1:26-38)

Teaching the Word (Sermon)

Reflection

Hearing the Word is followed by a time for reflection and meditation.

HYMN

CREED & PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

In confidence and hope, let us confess our faith:

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The Prayers of the Church

Looking forward to Christ's coming with hope, we pray for church and community, and for all weary hearts awaiting justice, wholeness and peace.

Silence for Reflection

For the whole Church, that like Mary we might welcome the Christ child with openhearted trust, and carry Christ into the world and shine as witnesses to new life: O God, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

O God, open our hearts to hear the angel voices that speak peace, opening our eyes to all your gifts, and our hands to those in need. Holy One, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

O God, be present for all whose souls are burdened, who are on our hearts today, especially those we name before you now:

- all in need of healing care, and those who cannot find the care they need;
- those who are struggling to meet the needs of home and work and family;
- all weary and stressed by trying to make ends meet, by financial fears,

Other petitions may be added...

May their needs and their fears be given over to you, that they know wholeness and peace: God in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

With thanksgiving we remember Mary and Joseph and all our friends and relatives who have died and rest securely in your arms. May the hope of Christ shine in our hearts, that we may come to the unfailing and eternal light of the Lamb of God in paradise. God of peace and mercy, **C hear our prayer.**

O God hear the prayers we make that this weary world may be renewed in the light of Christ, our Emmanuel, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

The Peace of the Lord be with you always! **And also with you!**

Please offer peace to those with you, in your heart or across Social Media. Offerings can be made online by going to the website, using the QR code with your smartphone or mailed. We are grateful for your continuing support of our mission and ministry!

Then continue:



Let us pray: All we call our own are gifts of Your mercy and love.
**May these offerings be a symbol of our whole lives,
given with grateful hearts to become a blessing to others.
Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need
until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Emmanuel. Amen.**

Sending

GOSPEL CANTICLE: *The Benedictus, the Song of Zachariah.*

Blessed are you Lord, the God of Israel;
you have come to your people and set them free.
**You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,
born of the house of your servant David.**

Through your holy prophets, you promised of old
to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us,
to show mercy to our forebears, and to remember your holy covenant.

**This was the oath you swore to our ancestors Sarah and Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
free to worship you without fear,
holy and righteous in your sight, all the days of our lives.**

In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
**to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

**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**

Announcements

Announcements were sent earlier in the week by USPS and email. Pastor may choose to call attention to one or more, or share announcements that were not included.

Dismissal

THE NUNC DIMITTIS

Lord, now let your servant go in peace
according to Your word.
**For mine eyes have seen Your salvation;
Which you have prepared before the face of all people;**
A light to reveal You to the nations,
And the glory of Your people Israel.
**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be world without end. Amen.**

Blessing and Benediction

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,
enlighten weary hearts, and guard your hearts and your minds through faith in Christ Jesus;
in the Name of God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit,
Amen.

HYMN

Dwell in peace, serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE POSTLUDE



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THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

REMEMBER TO CHECK the church web site (www.christpipersville.org) for worship and meeting updates and worship videos and resources or contact the church office.

NO IN-PERSON WORSHIP will be held through the end of the year due to the increasing numbers of COVID-19 cases. Watch your email for Facebook Live, YouTube and Zoom links for the live-streamed service at 9:30 a.m. Sunday or the recorded service to be posted to Facebook and our website afterwards. Please watch for further updates to our worship schedule.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS – The prayer list is printed in the newsletter and is posted on the bulletin board. In addition, please remember the Kinder Family (H), Norm and Jan Wrase (H,R), thanksgiving for the birth of Zoe Arlo Gearhart, and the family and friends of Dave Kinder as they mourn his death. Please contact the church office, 215-766-8730 or e-mail, with any prayer needs. Names will remain on the prayer list for one month unless a new request is made.

ANNUAL REPORTS for all committees and organizations are due in the church office by January 1st. Deadline for financial reports is January 7th. Thank you.

SOMETHING NEW! You may now sponsor the Sunday bulletin or the church website in honor or memory of a loved one similar to the way altar flowers had been sponsored and we'll list your gift in the bulletin as well as social media and our website. The requested donation is \$20/week for the bulletin and \$25/month for the website. Please contact the church office to arrange your sponsorship.

GIANT GIFT CARDS can be purchased during the week from the church office. Gift cards are available in \$5, \$10, \$25, \$50 & \$100 denominations. Checks should be made payable to Christ Lutheran Church. (*Gift cards may not be used to purchase other gift cards.*) Giant gives 5% back to the church for every card purchased. We raised \$2,200 to date in 2020.

Week of December 20th at a Glance

- Sun. 12/20 The 4th Sunday in Advent
9:30AM Virtual Worship (NO in-person worship)
- Mon. 12/21 Happy Birthday, Karen Harmon!
- Thur. 12/24 Christmas Eve – Watch for virtual worship links
- Fri. 12/25 The Nativity of Our Lord - Christmas Day
- Sun. 12/27 The 1st Sunday after Christmas
9:30AM Virtual Worship (NO in-person worship)
Happy Birthday, Noah Trauger!
Happy Anniversary, Larry & Carol Hafler!