

## Facebook Live Worship Outline

*Advent 4- 20 December 2020*

### GATHERING

**GATHERING HYMN**    **ELW #263**    *Saviour of the Nations Come*

- 1 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.
- 2 Not by human flesh and blood,  
but the mystic Breath of God,  
was the Word of God made flesh,  
fruit of woman, blossom fresh.
- 3 Wondrous birth—oh, wondrous child—  
from his throne, a virgin mild!  
Very God, and Mary's son,  
eager now his race to run!
- 4 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.
- 5 Now your manger, shining bright,  
hallows night with newborn light.  
Night cannot this light subdue;  
let our faith shine ever new.
- 6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,  
virgin's son, incarnate Word!  
To the holy Trinity  
praise we sing eternally!

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. hymnal version  
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### GREETING

- P:**     The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
          and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C:**     **And also with you.**

## CALL TO WORSHIP

P: My soul magnifies the Lord

C: **my spirit rejoices in God my saviour.**

P: For the mighty one has done great things

C: **and holy is God's name.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Mighty God, your faithfulness is magnified in the coming of your Son, in the long awaited birth of the promised Messiah. May we, like Mary, proclaim your greatness as we rejoice in our Saviour, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen**

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Advent 4 - Love

P: Light one candle for love.

Because the world is broken and the wait is long,  
but love never ends.

Love faithfully goes about the work of  
casting out fear speaking truth healing the deepest wounds crossing the divide  
from this world to the next and back again.

“Here i am,” she whispers,

“the servant of the Lord.”

So we light one candle, because it only takes one: Christ with us.

## ADVENT SONG

ELW #715 *Christ Be Our Light* v4

4. Longing for shelter, many are homeless.  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others,  
walls made of living stone.

*Refrain Christ, be our light!  
Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.  
Christ be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today.*

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

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## WORD

### FIRST READING

*Instead of David building a house (temple) for God, God promises to establish David's house (dynasty) forever. Centuries later, after the Babylonian exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the messiah, God's anointed. Reading from second Samuel, the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter:*

Now when the king was 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.

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words. **Thanks be to God**

### PSALM

*You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly. (Luke 1:52)*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.**  
**From this day all generations will call me blessed:**

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

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

You have shown strength with your arm  
and scattered the proud in their conceit,  
**casting down the mighty from their thrones  
and lifting up the lowly.**

You have filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.  
**You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,  
to remember the promise of mercy,**

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

## **GOSPEL**

*In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people from little known places. This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in this gospel. This is the Holy Gospel according to Luke:*

### ***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, favoured 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 favour 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

P: The Gospel of the Lord  
C: **Praise to you, O Christ**

## **SERMON**

- 1 My soul proclaims your greatness, Lord;  
I sing my Savior's praise!  
You looked upon my lowliness,  
and I am full of grace.  
Now ev'ry land and ev'ry age  
this blessing shall proclaim—  
great wonders you have done for me,  
and holy is your name.
- 2 To all who live in holy fear  
your mercy ever flows.  
With mighty arm you dash the proud,  
their scheming hearts expose.  
The ruthless you have cast aside,  
the lowly throned instead;  
the hungry filled with all good things,  
the rich sent off unfed.
- 3 To Israel, your servant blest,  
your help is ever sure;  
the promise to our parents made  
their children will secure.  
Sing glory to the Holy One,  
give honor to the Word,  
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High,  
one God, by all adored.

Text: *With One Voice*, 1995, based on the Magnificat  
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#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

- P: On this fourth Sunday of Advent, and separated by distance in our homes and yet confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray that God come quickly to this weary world, responding to each petition with the words, "Come and save us soon." (*Pause*)

O God, Emmanuel, we pray: be with us. Bless our national church and our own congregation. Bless also our neighbors of other denominations and faiths, that strengthened by your presence we may support one another in love and together serve those in need.

*A brief silence.*

Hear our prayer, O God:  
**Come and save us soon.**

O God, the Wisdom of the world, as tomorrow the earth's north tilts back toward the sun, preserve vegetation and wild animals during winter. Form us into a people who honor your creation. Make of our decorated Christmas trees signs of our thankfulness for the earth.

*A brief silence.*

Hear our prayer, O God:  
**Come and save us soon.**

O God, King of nations, bring peace and justice to the countries of the world. Lead the nations of the Middle East toward peace with one another and justice for the Palestinians. Guide our elected leaders toward honest and compassionate policies that serve all the people. Preserve our nation from discord and violence.

*A brief silence.*

Hear our prayer, O God:  
**Come and save us soon.**

O God, Key of David, look with mercy on all who are locked into despair, who fear the darkness, who live brokenhearted. Open windows to those who are isolated. Abide with all who are incarcerated. Give shelter to the homeless and the refugees.

*A brief silence.*

Hear our prayer, O God:  
**Come and save us soon.**

O God, Root of Jesse, nurture our community. Connect us with one another across all barriers, and bring an end to historic prejudices. Bless the work of food pantries and relief agencies, and inspire our holidays with your spirit of benevolence.

*A brief silence.*

Hear our prayer, O God:  
**Come and save us soon.**

O God, Ruler of might, send your healing power to all in bodily need. Curb the coronavirus, and strengthen medical workers. For those with COVID-19 we pray: . . . Guide all world health organizations and governmental officials in the distribution of the vaccines, and calm the fears of those who are reluctant to

receive the vaccine. Bring pregnant women to successful births. In this season of Advent we pray for: Ferolyn, Jordan, Pat, Carol, Beryl, Barb, Elethia, Pat and for all those we name aloud or quietly in our hearts. *(Pause)*

*A brief silence.*

Hear our prayer, O God:  
**Come and save us soon.**

O God, our Savior, dwell within us; make us your home, and receive the prayers of our hearts.

*A longer time of silence.*

Hear our prayer, O God:  
**Come and save us soon.**

O God, Dayspring everlasting, we remember all who have died and now live in your light, especially Katharina von Bora Luther and those we name here before you: . . . Gather us to yourself, when we join with all the faithful of every time and land to sing Mary's hymn of praise.

*A brief silence.*

Hear our prayer, O God:  
**Come and save us soon.**

We cannot thank you enough, O Emmanuel, for your ongoing presence among us. Remain with us, and receive our prayers, for the sake of the Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen**

**PEACE**

## **MEAL**

*We now enter that portion of our service that is the Eucharist or Holy Communion. I invite you to have your wine and bread ready and let's begin with prayer.*

**P:** Generous God, you have created all that is, and you provide for us in every season. Bless all that we offer, that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing. In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray. Amen.

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**P:** God is with you.  
**C: And also with you.**

P: Come, Emmanuel into our longing hearts.

C: **We lift them up to You.**

P: As we gather at this table.

C: **In anticipation and hope.**

P: God of hopeful expectation,  
who enters into our stories,  
who births new life into creation,  
who invites us into a rich and restoring relationship.  
We come before you with humble hearts  
To greet you in our midst.

You were there when creation burst into being, with endless possibilities.  
You were there when the Israelites tasted liberty, and you opened their eyes to new freedom.  
You were there, with Mary, when she became a powerful vessel and witness, to birth love into the world.  
You were there with Jesus when he prayed in the garden, when he confronted death and brought resurrection life to your people.

And you are with us now, as we gather at your table;  
Your meal and gift of love for all who come hungry and thirsty today.  
We come, like those first disciples,  
gathered around the table to hear Jesus' words of promise and hope.

On the night that he last ate with his disciples,  
Jesus took bread, 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.

When the meal had finished, Jesus took the cup of wine,  
gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new promise of life and love, poured out for all of you,  
for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his life, his death and his resurrection,  
We offer these fruits of creation, bread and wine,  
And ourselves in grateful service.

Thank you for your Spirit who works in and among us,  
in times of hope-filled anticipation.  
Who strengthens and sustains us,  
and who, challenges and prods us.  
Who gives us life and continues to surprise us with extravagant grace.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit.  
All honour and glory are yours, almighty God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

P: And now as our Saviour Jesus has taught us we are bold to pray:.

**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**

*The presiding minister may address the assembly in these or similar words.*

P: Even as we watch and wait, Christ is here. Come, eat and drink.  
These are the gifts of God for the Children of God.

*After all have communed, the presiding minister may say a table blessing.*

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

**C Amen**

P: 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.

#### **CHARGE**

P: Do not be afraid for God is with you  
and will strengthen you in your journey  
through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever!

#### **Blessing**

P: May God, for whom nothing is impossible  
restore you and bless you.

May Christ, in whom is the dawning of grace,  
carry you and gently lead you.  
May the Spirit, whose song is gladness,  
fill you with peace and comfort. Amen  
Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God. Amen

**SENDING SONG**

**ELW #267**

*Joy to the World*

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
  
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
  
- 3 No more let sin and sorrow grow  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.
  
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

**DISMISSAL**

- P: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord!  
C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Readings for the Week:**

Monday Luke 1: 6b-55

Tuesday Psalm 96

Wednesday Romans 13: 11-14

Thursday Christmas Eve - Luke 2:1-20

Friday Christmas Day - John 1:1-14

Saturday Acts 6: 8-15, 7:51-60

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas - 27 December 2020: Isaiah 61:10 - 62:3; Psalm 148;  
Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40