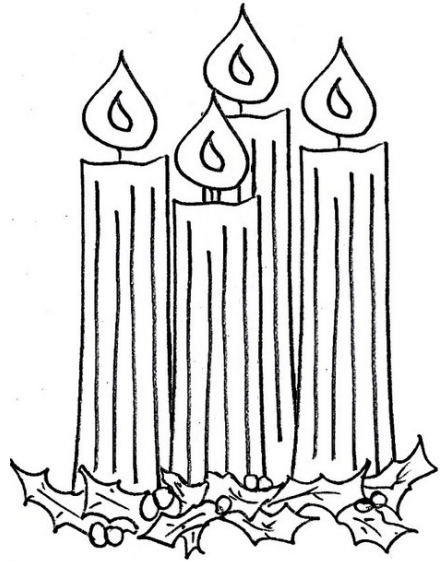


# Fourth Sunday of Advent Service of Lessons and Carols

December 23, 2018

10:00 AM Service

Holy Communion



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Sunday Services at 8 and 10 AM • Wed. Service at 10 AM • Sat. Service at 5 PM

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## WELCOME TO GOOD SHEPHERD

**If you are new** to our congregation, please let us know by getting a name tag at the Welcome Center outside and completing a newcomer card, found either at the Welcome Center or in the pew rack in front of you.

**Childcare is available:** During the service, infants to age 5 are welcome in the Nursery, located on the first floor of the education wing, accessed through the double doors by the elevator.

We have **gluten-free wafers** available: Please make your request known at the altar rail.

Symbols in the Bulletin: **P** Priest, **C** Congregation, **L** Leader, **A** Everyone, **D** Deacon.

**Hymn numbers** listed in the bulletin are referencing *The Hymnal 1982*, found in the pew rack.

**Following the service** we welcome everyone for coffee and refreshments in Kirk Hall, located on the first floor. Turn right after passing through the arch off the passageway between the buildings. The **restrooms** are also there.

A gentle reminder: As a courtesy during the church service, please be sure to turn your **cell phone off** or put it on the vibrate setting.

## GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

*Quietly prepare for worship.*

### PRELUDE

*People, Look East*

Wayne Wold

*[Please stand when the chimes sound.]*

### GATHERING HYMN

*Lift Up Your Heads*

436, vs. 1,3,4

***Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold the King of glory waits!  
The King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.***

***Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart  
from earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.***

***Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee: here, Lord, abide!  
Let me thy inner presence feel: thy grace and love in me reveal.***

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*[Please be seated.]*

### STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

### LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH AND PRAYER

*[Please stand.]*

### ADVENT HYMN

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

56, vs. 1,5

***AI 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 thee, O Israel!***

### PRAYER FOR THE FOURTH CANDLE OF ADVENT: Hope, Peace, Joy, Love

***P*** We light the first candle as a symbol of Christ who brings Hope.

*[One blue candle is lit.]*

We light the second candle as a symbol of Christ who brings Peace.

*[A second blue candle is lit.]*

We light the third candle as a symbol of Christ who brings Joy.

*[The pink candle is lit.]*

We light the fourth candle as a symbol of Christ who brings Love.

***L*** For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. *[The fourth candle is lit.]*

***C*** **Our God, we come to you today filled with love. Help us live together in a loving way today. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

***AI O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!***

## COLLECT 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 binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

*[Please be seated.]*

**LESSON ONE:** Proverbs 8:22–31

**L** “The Lord brought me forth as the first of his works, before his deeds of old; I was formed long ages ago, at the very beginning, when the world came to be. When there were no watery depths, I was given birth, when there were no springs overflowing with water; before the mountains were settled in place, before the hills, I was given birth, before he made the world or its fields or any of the dust of the earth. I was there when he set the heavens in place, when he marked out the horizon on the face of the deep, when he established the clouds above and fixed securely the fountains of the deep, when he gave the sea its boundary so the waters would not overstep his command, and when he marked out the foundations of the earth. Then I was constantly at his side. I was filled with delight day after day, rejoicing always in his presence, rejoicing in his whole world and delighting in mankind.

## REFLECTION

### CAROL

*Praise the Spirit In Creation*

**AI** ***Praise the Spirit in creation, breath of God, life’s origin:  
Spirit, moving on the waters quickening worlds to life within,  
source of breath to all things breathing, life in whom all lives begin.***

***Pray we then, O Lord the Spirit, on our lives descend in might;  
let your flame break out within us, fire our hearts and clear our sight,  
till, white-hot in your possession, we, too, set the world alight.***

**LESSON TWO:** Isaiah 7:10–15, 9:6–7

- Ⓛ Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, “Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.”

But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test.”

Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right. “

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

**REFLECTION**

**CAROL**

*Praise We the Lord This Day*

- Ⓜ ***The prophet gave the sign for faithful folk to read:  
a virgin born of David’s line shall bear the promised seed.***

***Praise we the Lord this day, this day so long foretold,  
whose promise shone with cheering ray on waiting saints of old.***

**LESSON THREE:** Micah 5:2–5a

- Ⓛ “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.” Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth; and he will be our peace.

**REFLECTION**

**CAROL**

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

79, vs. 1

- Ⓜ ***O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.***

#### LESSON FOUR: Luke 1:5–20, 23– 24a

Ⓛ In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly. But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old.

Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside.

Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years."

The angel said to him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time."

When his time of service was completed, he returned home. After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion.

#### REFLECTION

#### CAROL

*Blessed Be the God of Israel*

**AD** *Blessed be the God of Israel who comes to set us free  
and raises up new hope for us: a Branch from David's tree.  
So have the prophets long declared that with a mighty arm  
God would turn back our enemies and all who wish us harm.*

*With promised mercy will God still the covenant recall,  
the oath once sworn to Abraham, from foes to save us all;  
that we might worship without fear and offer lives of praise,  
in holiness and righteousness to serve God all our days.*

**LESSON FIVE:** Matthew 1:18-24

Ⓛ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.

**REFLECTION**

**CAROL**

*Come Now and Praise the Humble Saint*

All

1. Come now and praise the hum - ble saint of Da - vid's  
2. The an - gel spoke as Jo - seph slept: "God calls you  
3. For him there was no glo - ry here, no crown or

house and line, the car - pen - ter whose  
to be - come the Vir - gin's spouse, the  
mar - tyr's fame; for him there was the

life ful - filled our gra - cious God's de - sign.  
guar - dian of great Da - vid's grea - ter Son.  
pa - tient life of faith and hum - ble name.

**LESSON SIX:** Luke 1:39–45

- Ⓛ At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

**REFLECTION**

**CAROL**

*My Soul Cries Out*

- Ⓐ ***My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,  
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,  
so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?***

Refrain            ***My heart shall sing of the day you bring.  
Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,  
and the world is about to turn.***

***Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,  
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,  
you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.***

Refrain

***Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:  
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.  
This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,  
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around.***

Refrain

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*[Please sit, stand, or kneel, as you prefer.]*

- Ⓓ Let us pray for the Church and for the world.
- Ⓛ Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. *Silence...*  
We pray in hope.
- Ⓒ **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

ℒ Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. *Silence...*  
We pray in hope.

☞ **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

ℒ Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. We give you thanks for the flowers given for your glory [by . . . .] *Silence...* We pray in hope.

☞ **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

ℒ Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, especially [*read names from notebook...*] and those we now name aloud or in our hearts [*leave time...*]. Bring them the joy of your salvation. *Silence...* We pray in hope.

☞ **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

ℒ Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. We thank you for all the blessings of this life [*especially... read items from notebook.*] *Silence...* We pray in hope.

☞ **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

ℒ We commend to your mercy all who have died, especially [*read names from notebook...*]. We pray also for those we now name aloud or in our hearts [*leave time...*]; that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. *Silence...* We pray in hope.

☞ **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

ℒ These things and all for which we pray, we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

☞ **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

#### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

[*Please stand or kneel.*]

ℒ Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

[*Silence is kept.*] Most merciful God,

☞ **we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

ℒ Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

☞ **Amen.**



## PRAYERS AND BLESSINGS

### THE GREETING OF PEACE

*[Please stand.]*

- ℘ The peace of the Lord be always with you.
- ☩ **And also with you.** *[All may greet one another in the name of the Lord.]*

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### OFFERTORY SENTENCE

- ℘ Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

### OFFERTORY

*The Angel Gabriel*

Basque

*[Please be seated.]*

### PRESENTATION

*[Please stand when the offering plates are given to the Deacon.]*

- ℘ We gladly present the fruits of our lives to the God who creates us, redeems us and sustains us. May we have the grace to use them to heal God's world.

### PRESENTATION HYMN

*We Praise You, O God*

- 🎵 ***We praise you, O God, our redeemer, creator;  
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.  
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;  
we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.***

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: Eucharistic Prayer A

- ℘ The Lord be with you.
- ☩ **And also with you.**
- ℘ Lift up your hearts.
- ☩ **We lift them to the Lord.**
- ℘ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- ☩ **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

- It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**SANCTUS**

*Emmanuel*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and God of might.  
Hea-ven and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho- san-na in the high - est, ho- san-na in the high - est.  
Bles-sed is he who comes in the name o - f the Lord.  
Ho- san-na in the high - est, ho- san-na in the high - est.

*[Please stand or kneel, as you choose.]*

- Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."



[You may be seated. All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Please follow the directions of the usher, who will let you know when it's your turn to go to the altar rail. You may stand or kneel. To receive, hold your hands in front of you, one palm over the other. The priest will place a wafer there. You may either consume it immediately, and then sip from the cup of wine when it comes to you, or, you may wait and dip the wafer into the wine. When you are finished, please return to your seat by the side aisle.]

**Our Prayer Team will be in the south narthex (at the back of the church) during Holy Communion to pray with you for healing, guidance, a loved one, or anything else on your heart.**

### COMMUNION MUSIC

[Please remain seated.]

### COMMUNION CHANT

*Wait for the Lord*

[Please repeat this chant until the musician stops playing the tune.]

**☞ Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!**

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

[Please stand or kneel, as you choose.]

**P** Let us pray...

**☞ Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

### THE BLESSING

[Please stand.]

**P** God bless you with the promises of hope, the strengths of peace, the depths of joy, and the labors of love, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**☞ Amen.**

### SENDING HYMN

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

657, vs. 1,2

**Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.**

**Come, almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.**

### THE DISMISSAL

**D** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**☞ Thanks be to God!**

### POSTLUDE

*From Heaven High I Come to You*

Johann Pachelbel