

December 20, 2020 • Fourth Sunday of Advent

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

CONFESSiON AND FORGIVENESS

God, we don't always understand your ways, and often, we choose to turn away from them, out of self-interest. Forgive us when we focus on our own dreams instead of yours. Forgive us when we stand in the way of your grace for others. Forgive us when we forget all that you are capable of. Remind us that nothing is impossible for you, including our own redemption.

Amen.

SONG

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

PRAYER

Stir up your power, God, and come. Give us strength to say 'yes' to you, even when we are scared. Help us to birth love and hope. Help us to see and trust that you are Emmanuel, God with us. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

A READING FROM 2 SAMUEL 7:1-11, 16

¹Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the 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." ³Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I 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. ⁷Wherever 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?" ⁸Now 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; ⁹and 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. ¹⁰And 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,¹¹ 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.¹⁶ Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

A READING FROM ROMANS 16:25-27

²⁵Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages²⁶ 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—²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

A READING FROM LUKE 1:26-38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth,²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.³² 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.³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"³⁵ 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.³⁶ 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.³⁷ For 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.

SERMON

Pastor Amy Stewart

SONG

God With Us

A NEW CREED – UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

**We are not alone,
we live in God's world.**

We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.**

Thanks be to God.

PRAYERS

P: God of power and might, fulfill your promise and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

P: Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

God IS our peace. Receive that peace and share peace with one another.

OFFERING

Offerings can be made online or mailed to the church office. Thank you for your continuing support to our ministry during this time.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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, the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

P: May God, who gathers us in love,
lead you in pathways of righteousness and justice.
May God, who knows us more deeply than we know ourselves,
lead you in pathways of forgiveness and freedom.
May God, who fills us with good things,
lead you in pathways of equity and abundance.
The blessing of the holy Trinity, \ddagger one God,
be upon you and remain with you forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING

Joy to the World

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.
C: Thanks be to God.

Vocal Leaders: Worship Band

Musicians: Gail Brecht, Josh Brecht, Eric Lindgren, Jim McCommis, Christian Saia, Amy Kallansrud, Jason Fulbright

Reader: Jan Thompson

Audio Team: Andrew Leach

Video Team: Paul Dreher, Andrew Leach, Eric Lindgren, Karl Oswald

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Text: Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum, Koln, 1710; tr. composite

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

God With Us

Jason Ingram | Leslie Jordan

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- Open Hands Music
- So Essential Tunes
-

Joy to the World

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

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