

Welcome home! **BAY VIEW** **LUTHERAN CHURCH** ELCA



December 19, 2021
Fourth Sunday of Advent
10:30 AM
Pastor Jeff Greathouse

PRELUDE

OPENING PRAISE SONGS

Hark the Herald Angels Sing, King of Heaven

Verse 1

Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled
Joyful all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With angelic hosts proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem
Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King

Verse 2

Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace
Hail the Son of righteousness
Light and life to all He brings
Risen with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth
Born to give them second birth
Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King

Chorus

King of Heaven come down
King of Heaven come now
Let Your glory reign shining like the day
King of Heaven come
King of Heaven rise up
Who can stand against us
You are strong to save
In Your mighty name King of Heaven come

Interlude

Oh oh

Verse 3

Christ by highest heaven adored
Christ the everlasting Lord
Late in time behold Him come
Offspring of a virgin's womb
Mild He lays His glory by
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth
Born to give them second birth
Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King the newborn King

Ending

King of Heaven come King of Heaven come
King of Heaven come King of Heaven come
King of Heaven come down
King of Heaven come now
Let Your glory reign shining like the day
King of Heaven come

CCLI Song # 7019799

Charles Wesley | Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy | Jason Ingram | Paul Baloche

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Emmanuel

Verse

Emmanuel Emmanuel
His name is called Emmanuel
God with us revealed in us
His name is called Emmanuel

CCLI Song # 12949

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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. Amen.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH: ADVENT 4

We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.
As we light the candles on this wreath,
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,
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.
Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah* (ELW 240) **vs 1-4**

- 1 Light one candle to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel,
God fulfills the promise.
- 2 Light two candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd,

gently lead them homeward.

- 3 Light three candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
Lift your heads and lift high the gateway
for the King of glory.
- 4 Light four candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He is coming, tell the glad tidings.
Let your lights be shining!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

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CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

~ written by Rev. Jan Brooks, Cottonwood Falls Presbyterian Church.

O Holy God of Promise,
we so often place our trust in the things we can see,
and touch, and easily believe.
But you did not ask us to believe what is easy,
you have asked us to believe what is true!
Forgive us, Holy One, when we doubt the ways you work.
Forgive us when we find it hard to believe an ancient story.
Forgive us we question how you chose to enter the world,
born as one of us.
Forgive our lack of faith and belief
in ways which seem so impossible to believe.
Help us to look in faith, open our belief, and set aside our doubts
that you sent your Son, born of a virgin –
the one who has come to set us all free.
We offer these prayers in the name of your Son,
Emmanuel, God with us. **Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

ELW, HC, Setting II (118)

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and the + Son. And of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

RESPONSE: *Open Our Eyes*

Verse

Open our eyes Lord
We want to see Jesus
To reach out and touch Him
And say that we love Him
Open our ears Lord
And help us to listen
Open our eyes Lord
We want to see Jesus

CCLI Song # 1572

Bob Cull

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FIRST READING: Micah 5:2-5a

A reading from Micah.

²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;

then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the
LORD,

in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;

^{5a}and he shall be the one of peace.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 80:1-7 (*read responsively*)

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

**²In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

³Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**⁴O Lord God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

**⁶You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-55

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town
in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and
greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the
child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy
Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among
women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this

happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

⁴⁶And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,

and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things,

and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

SERMON: Pastor Jeff Greathouse

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Silent Night, Holy Night!: Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!* (ELW 281) **vs 1**

1 Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

~ written by Ann Siddall, and posted on the Stillpoint Spirituality Centre and Faith Community website. <http://stillpointsa.org.au/prayer/prayers-and-liturgies/>

Our souls magnify the Lord,
and our spirits rejoice in God our Saviour,
for he looks with favour upon us
and sees our unrealized potential.
In the tradition of Mary,
and all who have said “yes” to God,
we stand here today,
to add our assent to theirs.
Like Mary, we feel overwhelmed;
we wonder if we are worthy,
or capable, of following the calling.
Like Mary, we have our questions
and we will not be afraid to ask them.
Like Mary, we will hear and ponder
the assurance that God will empower us.
Like Mary we will strive to say -
“Let it be with us according to your will.”
To whatever God is inviting of us
at this time in our lives,
and relying on God’s grace,
we say “yes.”

MUSIC FOR PRAYERS: *Hear My Prayer*

Chorus

Hear my prayer O Lord
From the ends of the earth I cry
Your peace will lead me
To the Rock that is higher than I

CCLI Song # 1333469

Debbie Owens

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THE PRAYERS

~ written by Christine Sine on Godspace <http://godspace-msa.com/>. It is part of a longer liturgy for Advent which can be viewed here: <http://godspace-msa.com/2015/11/29/liturgy-for-the-first-sunday-of-advent/>

Into our troubles and weaknesses,
Into the barren places of our souls, Come Lord,
Come down, come in, come among us and make us whole.
Into the war torn and the refugee,
Into those who live in conflict, Come Lord,
Come down, come in, come among us and make us whole.
Into the homeless and the unemployed,
Into those who feel abandoned, Come Lord,
Come down, come in, come among us and make us whole.
Into the sick and the disabled,
Into those with Ebola and with cancer, Come, Lord
Come down, come in, come among us and make us whole.
Into the poor and the starving,
Into those who are oppressed or abused, Come Lord
Come down, come in, come among us and make us whole.
Into the lives of loved ones,
Into those from whom we are estranged, Come Lord,
Come down, come in, come among us and make us whole.
Into our joys and celebrations,
Into our work and our achievements, Come, Lord
Come down, come in, come among us and make us whole.
O Christ we long for your coming. Hasten that day when those who

seek you in every nation will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south and sit at table in Your Kingdom. Hasten the day when your Kingdom will come in all its glory and suffering and pain and sickness and oppression and death will be overcome forever. Hasten the day when we will be resurrected as a great multicultural family and live in peace, harmony, joy and love together in your kingdom.

Remembering in our prayers: **Paul** (Jacobson), **Donovan** (Antholt), **Vicki** (Wittenberg), **Mimi** (Zinngrabe), **Janet** (Mickelson), **Deanne & Chris** (Schafer), **Kevin & Cathy** (Clark), **Steven** (Leek), **Dan** (Coyhis), **Sasha** (Hill), **Fred & Darlene** (Kirch), **Sandy** (Scott-Cota), **Rusty** (Feld), **Kayla** (Fleury), **Rich** (Mickelson), **Carl** (Scholz), **Tysha** (Osborne), **Dale**(Lyndahl), **Beth** (Jacobson), **Michael** (Cassity), **Sue** (Strong), **Larry** (Uecker), **Carol** (Bockhop), **Andrew** (Snyder), **Lois** (Krueger), **Elena** (Rouer), **Chuck** (Dull), **Dan** (Knutson), **Don** (Greathouse), **Steve** (Kase), **the family & friends of Carol** (Bockhop).

We also pray for those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week: **Bill** (Forry), **Leslie** (Hill), **Emily** (Koelpien) **Drew** (Rass), **Patrick** (Neu), **Tara** (Englebert), **Loren** (Gray), **Christian** (Hooker), **Naedene & Richard** (Peterson), **Kathleen & John** (Puetz).

OFFERING

MUSIC DURING OFFERING: *Power & Light, He Shall Reign Forevermore*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of our waiting and watching,
we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives
to the service of all your people.
Prepare the way before us
as we meet you in this simple meal,
through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.
Amen.

DIALOGUE

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 our thanks and praise.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and 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.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to Christ's banquet.
Feast on God's gift of grace.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen

HYMNS DURING DISTRIBUTION: *Emmanuel (Hallowed Manger Ground)*

Verse 1

What hope we hold this starlit night
A King is born in Bethlehem
Our journey long we seek the light
That leads to the hallowed manger ground

Verse 2

What fear we felt in the silent age
Four-hundred years can He be found
But broken by a baby's cry
Rejoice in the hallowed manger ground

Chorus

Emmanuel Emmanuel
God incarnate here to dwell
Emmanuel Emmanuel
Praise His name Emmanuel
(Praise His name Emmanuel)

Verse 3

The Son of God here born to bleed
A crown of thorns would pierce His brow
And we beheld this offering

Exalted now the King of kings
Praise God for the hallowed manger ground

CCLI Song # 5601640

Chris Tomlin | Ed Cash

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BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

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

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Most High God,
you have come among us at this table.
By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word,
sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all,
through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.
Amen.

SENDING BLESSING: THE TRINITY RESTORES YOU

~ written by Bill & Kristi Gaultiere, inspired by Psalm 80. Posted on Soul Shepherding.
<http://www.soulshepherding.org/>

The Trinity restores you;
they make their face to shine all around you
so that you are saved.
The Father loves you;
He makes his face to shine down on you
so that you are saved.
The Son graces you;
He makes his face to shine right beside you
so that you are saved.
The Spirit lives in you;
He makes his face to shine inside you
so that you are saved.

The Trinity empowers you;
they make their face to shine through you
so that others are saved.

SENDING SONG: *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* (ELW 275)

- 1 Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.
- 2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.
- 3 Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations,
you have seen his natal star.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.
- 4 All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3; Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, st. 4

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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