

**HOLY COMMUNION  
DECEMBER 20, 2020  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE**

**PRELUDE AND PREPARATION**

*During the prelude, prepare your heart for worship: read the introduction, peruse the bulletin, find the scripture readings in the pew Bible, and focus your thoughts on the Lord. You may pray: **O Jesus, our King and our Great High Priest, we await Your coming. Be present with us as You were present with Your disciples and make Yourself known to us in the breaking of bread. Amen.***

**INTRODUCTION**

*God keeps the promise made to David, to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus would be called King only as He was executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."*

**WELCOME AND MEDITATION**

**GATHERING HYMN** *(Please rise.)*

*"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" (Maj # 94 - favorite) →*

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel-ling, Joy of heaven to earth come down,  
 2 Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery trou - bled breast;  
 3 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy life re - ceive;  
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less let us be;

fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.  
 let us all in thee in - her - it, let us find the prom - ised rest.  
 sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave.  
 let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in thee:

Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion, pure, un - bound - ed love thou art;  
 Take a - way the love of sin - ning, Al - pha and O - me - ga be;  
 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove,  
 changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place,

vis - it us with thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.  
 end of faith, as its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
 pray and praise thee with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
 till we cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

WORDS: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)  
 MUSIC: John Zundel (1815-1882)

BEECHER  
 8.7.8.7.D.

## INVOCATION (# = *All may make the sign of the cross.*)

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, Father, # Son and Holy Spirit, one God, Who shapes the whole creation, Who comes with might and mercy, Who fills the hungry with good things.

C: AMEN.

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (*Please kneel.*)

P: Let us approach the throne of grace with repentant hearts.

*“Kyrie” (WOV p 28)*

Ⓐ Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:    Ⓞ Lord, have mer - cy.  
Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:

Ⓐ Chri - ste e - le - i - son:    Ⓞ Christ, have mer - cy.  
Christ, . . . . have mer - cy:

Ⓐ Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:    Ⓞ Lord, have mer - cy.  
Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:

*(Silence is kept for reflection.)*

P: Faithful God, **C: we confess that we have been unfaithful to You. Like dry leaves and withered grass, our lives are blown about by our sins and the powers of evil around us. Restore us, O God; let the light of Your face shine on us, and we shall be saved. AMEN.**

P: God is patient, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. In the name of # Jesus Christ, I bring you this good news: you are free from all that imprisons you, your sins are forgiven; God heals your broken hearts. Live in peace and harmony as you wait for the day of the Lord.

C: AMEN.

## GREETING

P: Grace and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the promised gifts of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

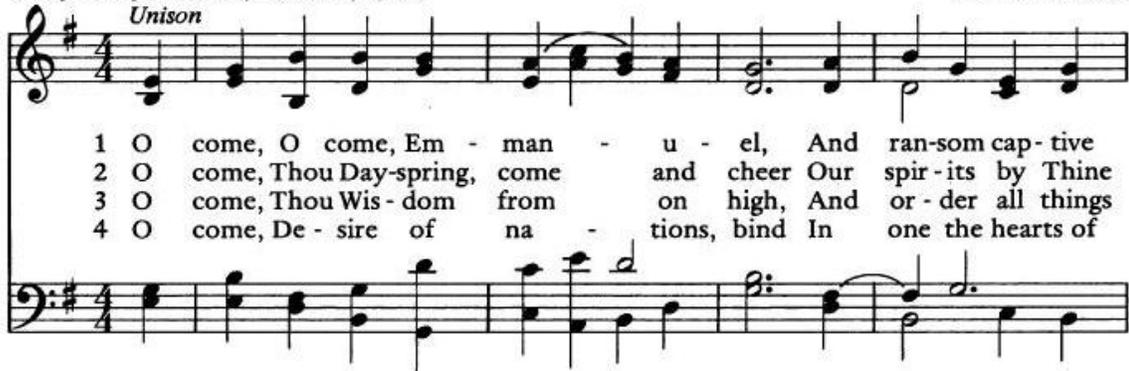
# WE PRAISE GOD'S NAME

## PRAISE SONG "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" verse 1 (Maj # 120)

Latin: c. 9th Century  
Tr. by John M. Neale, stanzas 1, 2, alt.  
Tr. by Henry S. Coffin, stanzas 3, 4, alt.

VENI EMMANUEL  
Adapted from Plainsong, Mode I  
Thomas Helmore

*Unison*



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran-som cap-tive  
2 O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer Our spir-its by Thine  
3 O come, Thou Wis-dom from on high, And or-der all things  
4 O come, De-sire of na-tions, bind In one the hearts of



1 Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone-ly ex - ile here,  
2 ad - vent here; Dis - perse the gloom-y clouds of night,  
3 far and nigh; To us the path of knowl - edge show,  
4 all man - kind; Bid Thou our sad di - vi - sions cease,



1 Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
2 And death's dark shad-ows put to flight. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em-  
3 And cause us in her ways to go.  
4 And be Thy-self our King of peace.



man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el! A-men.

*(Advent Wreath family comes forward during 4th verse.)*

## ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Reader: We Praise You, O God, for this wheel of time that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. Bless us as we light the fourth candle of LOVE. Increase our longing for Your presence, that at the celebration of Your Son's birth His Spirit might dwell anew in our midst, for He is our light and our salvation. Grant this through Christ our Lord, Whose coming is certain and Whose day draws near.

*(The lighting of the fourth candle)*



Let us pray together: **Stir up Your power, Lord Christ, and come. Take away the hindrance of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of Your birth, that we may receive You in joy and willingly bear Your redeeming love to all the world, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN.**

**PRAISE SONG** “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” verse 5

**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.**

*(Please sit.)*

**RESPONSIVE READING**...Psalm 89:1-4,19-29

*(congregation reads indented)*

I will sing of the LORD'S great love forever;

**with my mouth I will make Your faithfulness known  
through all generations.**

I will declare that Your love stands firm forever,

**that You established Your faithfulness in heaven itself.**

You said, “I have made a covenant with My chosen one,

**I have sworn to David My servant,**

‘I will establish your line forever

**and make your throne firm through all generations.’”**

Once You spoke in a vision, to Your faithful people You said:  
**“I have bestowed strength on a warrior;  
 I have exalted a young man from among the people.  
 I have found David My servant;  
 with My sacred oil I have anointed him.  
 My hand will sustain him;  
 surely My arm will strengthen him.  
 No enemy will subject him to tribute;  
 no wicked man will oppress him.  
 I will crush his foes before him  
 and strike down his adversaries.  
 My faithful love will be with him,  
 and through My name His horn will be exalted.  
 I will set his hand over the sea,  
 his right hand over the rivers.  
 He will call out to me, ‘You are my Father,  
 my God, the Rock my Savior.’  
 I will also appoint him my firstborn,  
 the most exalted of the kings of the earth.  
 I will maintain My love to him forever,  
 and My covenant with him will never fail.  
 I will establish his line forever,  
 his throne as long as the heavens endure.”**

**GLORIA PATRI** *(Music: Henry W. Greatorex)*

Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost, As it was in  
 the be-gin-ning, is now and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A - men, A - men.

## WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

**FIRST READING**.... 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16... .....Pg. 480

P: Word of God, Word of Life.      **C: Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING**.... Romans 16:25-27.....Pg. 1769

P: Word of God, Word of Life.      **C: Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** (*Please rise.*)

*“My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness” verse 1 (ELW # 251)*



1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior’s praise!  
3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;  
You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.  
the prom - ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.  
Now ev - ‘ry land and ev - ‘ry age this bless - ing shall pro - claim—  
Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,  
great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.  
and praise the Pow’r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

Text: *With One Voice*, 1995, based on the Magnificat Music: KINGSFOLD, English melody

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 1st Chapter.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL** ....Luke 1:26-38.....Pg. 1588

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

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *“My Soul Proclaims...”* verse 3 ↑

**SERMON** (*Please sit.*) *“Greatly Troubled at His Words”*

## WE RESPOND IN FAITH

### **HYMN OF THE DAY** (*Please rise.*)

*“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came” (ELW # 265) →*

1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,  
 2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,  
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;  
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born

with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:  
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;  
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.  
 in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,

"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,  
 thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
 "My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."  
 and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:

most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."  
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!  
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,  
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."

Text: Basque carol, para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924  
 Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Basque carol, arr. C. Edgar Pettman, 1865-1943

## NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father 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 was made man. 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 worshipped 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.**

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *(Please kneel.)*

### WE COMMUNE WITH CHRIST

#### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *(Please rise.)*

**P:** The LORD be with you. **C:** And also with you.

**P:** Lift up your hearts. **C:** We lift them to the LORD.

**P:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C:** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**P:** It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever-living God. You comforted Your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom You will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

*“Holy, Holy, Holy Lord” (WOV p 36) →*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and  
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

**P:** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world You gave Your only Son, that all those who believe in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to You for the salvation You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now Your Holy Spirit into our hearts, and into these gifts of bread and wine, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as He comes to us in His holy supper.

**C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Come, Holy Spirit.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**P:** 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, eat; this is My body, given for you. Do this in 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.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER *(sung)*

**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. AMEN.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*All who are baptized and trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior may partake. Please fill out a communication card and put it in the plate with your offering. Take a regular or rice (blue) wafer and a pre-filled glass of wine (red) or grape juice (white). Those not ready to receive communion may come for a blessing.*

## LAMB OF GOD *(WOV p 39)*

☪ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## COMMUNION SOLO "Joseph's Song"

# COMMUNION HYMN *(sung while others are receiving.)*

*"Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus"* (Maj # 491 - favorite - Helen H. Lemmel)

1. O soul, are you wea - ry and troub - led? No light in the  
2. Through death in - to life ev - er - last - ing He passed, and we  
3. His word shall not fail you - He prom - ised; Be - lieve Him and

dark-ness you see? There's light for a look at the Sav - ior,  
fol - low Him there; O - ver us sin no more hath do - min - ion -  
all will be well: Then go to a world that is dy - ing,

*Refrain*  
And life more a - bun - dant and free!  
For more than con - qu'rors we are! Turn your eyes up - on Je -  
His per - fect sal - va - tion to tell!

sus, Look full in His won - der - ful face; And the things of

earth will grow strange - ly dim In the light of His glo - ry and grace.

# CANTICLE *(Please rise when all have returned to their seats.)*

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” (Maj #121 - favorite)

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring,

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;  
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

dear De - sire of ev - ery na - tion, Joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

WORDS: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)  
MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard (1811-1887); arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

HYFRYDOL  
8.7.8.7.D.

## **WE ARE SENT INTO GOD'S WORLD**

### **BLESSING**

P: The Lord of hope strengthen your hearts as you await the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all the saints. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you that you may be saved. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, ✠ and of the Holy Spirit. **C: AMEN.**

**SENDING HYMN** "*Joy to the World*" (Maj # 135) →

### **PASSING THE PEACE**

P: As we leave to serve the Risen Lord in the power of His Spirit, let us share with one another some of the blessings of peace we have received. The peace of the Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth re -  
2 Joy to the world! the Sav - ior reigns: Let men their  
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, Nor thorns in -  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the

1 ceive her King; Let ev - ery heart pre - pare Him  
2 songs em - ploy; While fields and flocks, rocks, hills, and  
3 fest the ground; He comes to make His bless - ings  
4 na - tions prove The glo - ries of His right - eous -

1 room, And heaven and na - ture sing, And heaven and na - ture sing, And  
2 plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re -  
3 flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found, Far  
4 ness, And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His love, And  
And heaven and na - ture sing,

1 heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
2 peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
3 as, far as the curse is found.  
4 won - ders, won - ders of His love. A - men.  
sing,

**DECEMBER 20, 2020**  
**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**SERVANTS OF THE LORD THIS WEEK**

COVER ART: Paige Sciarra

ALTAR GUILD: Alyce & Patty Stein

PHONETREE: Marianne Sands

ADVENT WREATH: 9:00-Quan Family

SOUND SYSTEM: 9:00-Chris Chmela

LIVE STREAM: 9:00-Jan Stryker

LECTOR: 9:00-Michele Sciarra

COMMUNION: 9:00-Jonathan Miller/Patty Stein/Lyn Stryker

SOLO: 9:00-Robin Foster

PRAYER CARE: call Pat Gilbert (610) 867-7759

COUNTERS: Jan Stryker/Karen Brown

FLOWERS AND BULLETINS ARE SPONSORED BY:

*Holy Cross*

**Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church**

2700 Jacksonville Road, Bethlehem, PA 18017

Office (610) 867-6231 † Holycrossoffice@rcn.com

Pastor (610) 867-9725 † Holycrosspastor@rcn.com

Preschool (610) 867-9735 † FAX (610) 867-3755

www.holycrossbethlehem.com

**CHURCH STAFF**

Rev. David L. Brown, *Pastor* † Ruthann Kistler, *Christian Ed. Dir.*

Nancy Cook, *Music Director* † Lynden Stryker, *Secretary*

Jim Steiner, *Sexton* † Karen Steiner, *Pre-school*

Lisa Wechsler, *Bookkeeper* † Glade Schroeter, *Webmaster*

**SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

Worship - 9:00 AM † Sunday School - 10:30 AM

*(Holy Communion 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays & Major Feasts)*

Hymns used by permission of OneLicense.net #A-714282.

Scriptures taken from *the Holy Bible NIV*. Copyright 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society.

Liturgy adapted from *With One Voice* Copyright 1995 by Augsburg Fortress.