



December 24, 2023 - Livestream
Fourth Sunday of Advent

GATHERING

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brandon Wallace

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRELUDE

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

arr. M. Bedford

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Out of God's deep compassion the dawn of heaven will break upon us.

People: From God's faithfulness the light of peace will shine on us.

Leader: The Messiah is coming to free us from our fears,
to liberate us from our sins, and to give us peace.

*OPENING HYMN #220

Angels from the Realms of Glory

***Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth:***

Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

***Shepherds, in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light: [Refrain]***

***Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen his natal star: [Refrain]***

***Saints, before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear;
suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear: [Refrain]***

OPENING PRAYER

**Faithful God,
you chose Mary, full of grace,
to be the mother of our Sovereign and Savior, Jesus the Christ.
Now fill us with your grace, that with her,
we may understand your ways,
rejoice in your salvation,
and embrace your will;
through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

Mai Cooper-Nolen and family

FIRST LESSON

Romans 16:25-27

²⁵ Now 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 ages ²⁶but 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.

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF PRAYER #242

Love Came Down at Christmas

***Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas; star and angels gave the sign.***

***Worship we the God-head, Love incarnate, Love divine;
worship we our Jesus, but wherewith for sacred sign?***

***Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine;
love to God and neighbor, love for plea and gift and sign.***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Amy Sell

THE LORD'S PRAYER #895

**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.**

MUSICAL RESPONSE #204

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

***Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.***

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Sunil Kotian

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Magnificat

M. Hayes

Magnificat anima mea Dominum! Et exultavit spiritus meus in Deo salutari meo.
My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.
For he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden.
For behold, henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.
For he who is mighty has done great things for me.
Holy is his name. Et sanctum nomen ejus.

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures here below.

Praise God above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 1:26-35

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

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

The Faithful God and the Obedience of Faithful Waiting

Darren Cushman Wood

*HYMN OF DEDICATION #198

My Soul Gives Glory to My God

My soul gives glory to my God. My heart pours out its praise.

God lifted up my lowliness in many marvelous ways.

My God has done great things for me: yes, holy is this name.

All people will declare me blessed, and blessings they shall claim.

***From age to age, to all who fear, such mercy love imparts,
dispensing justice far and near, dismissing selfish hearts.***

***Love casts the mighty from their thrones, promotes the insecure,
leaves hungry spirits satisfied, the rich seem suddenly poor.***

***Praise God, whose loving covenant supports those in distress,
remembering past promises with present faithfulness.***

*THE CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Angels from the Realms of Glory

arr. R. Hobby

This week's worship leaders:

Darren Cushman Wood, *Senior Pastor*

Sunil Kotian, *Pastor of Mission & Outreach*

Amy Sell, *Minister of Discipleship & Formation*

Brandon Wallace, *Minister of Youth & Young Adults*

Kathy Oehler, *Liturgist*

John Hague, James Horton, and Allen McCormack, *Audio Visual*

Mark Gilgallon, *Director of Music*

Heather Hinton, *Organist*

Upcoming Events

Christmas Eve Services Tonight

5:00 p.m. Children and Family Service

7:30 p.m. Celebration of Holy Communion

10:30 p.m. Festival of Lessons and Carols

January 5, Epiphany Party, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

January 19, Happy Feet Winter Movie Night, 5:30-8 p.m.

February 2, Indiana Pacers v. Sacramento Kings, 7:30 p.m.,
purchase tickets by December 31

Scan to make your 2024 pledge



Join Us in the New Year

Study Together:

“On Purpose: Finding
God’s Voice in Your
Passion” Book Study
Wednesdays,
Jan. 10-31
6-7:30 p.m.

Serve Together:

Eviction Sealing Event
Saturday, Feb. 10
9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Pray Together:

Prayer Workshop
Saturday, Jan. 27
8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Celebrate Together:

Christian Singer
Callie Day
Sunday, Feb. 11, 11 a.m.

