



December 22, 2024 – Livestream
Fourth Sunday of Advent

GATHERING

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Darren Cushman Wood

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Harvesting Hope

Kathy Gifford

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRELUDE

Tell Out, My Soul

arr. D. Cherwien

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: May our souls magnify the Lord,
and may our spirits rejoice in God our Savior,

People: The Lord has looked with favor on us,

Leader: for the Mighty One has done great things for us,
and holy is God's name.

**People: God's mighty arm has done tremendous things!
The Lord has confused and disoriented the proud.**

Leader: God has brought down princes from their thrones
and exalted the humble.

**People: The Sovereign God has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away with empty hands.**

Leader: Come, let us worship Mary's God.

*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 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.**

CHORISTERS' ANTHEM

Mary Did You Know

B. Greene; arr. J. Schrader
with Dads, Brothers, Grandfathers

Eric Applegate, piano; Rosie Jordan, director

Mary, did you know that your baby boy would someday walk on water?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?
This child that you delivered will soon deliver you.

Mary, did you know that your baby boy will give sight to a blind man?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy will calm a storm with his hand?
Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?
When you kissed your little baby, then you kissed the face of God.

The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again.
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak the praises of the Lamb.

Mary, did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy will one day rule the nations?
Did you know that your baby boy was heaven's perfect Lamb?
This sleeping child you're holding is the great "I AM!"

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Hope is a Star

J. Raney

Alan, Becky & Delaney Archibald

Choir: Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn, telling the world that the Savior is born.

Love is a flame that burns in our hearts, Jesus has come and will never depart.

Leader: In this season of Advent, we remember that Christ's coming will bring us great joy.

For those who are suffering and in need

People: Christ will bring us great joy.

Leader: For those who have experienced personal loss

People: Christ will bring us great joy.

Leader: For those who battle daily with inner demons

People: Christ will bring us great joy.

Leader: For those who endure deep disappointment

People: Christ will bring us great joy.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Jeff Warbinton

FIRST LESSON

Micah 5:2-5a

² But 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.

³ Therefore 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.

⁴ And 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;

⁵ and he shall be the one of peace.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF PRAYER #230

O Little Town of Bethlehem

***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.***

***For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth!***

***How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given;
so God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.***

***O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Brandon Wallace

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

Joy in the Morning

***There'll be joy in the morning on that day,
there'll be joy in the morning on that day,
for the daylight will dawn when the darkness is gone,
there'll be joy in the morning on that day.***

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Ave Maria

F. Biebl

Angelus Domini nuntiavit Mariae, et concepti de Spiritu sancto.

The Angel of the Lord announced to Mary, and she conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Ave Maria, gratia plena Dominus tecum,

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;

Benedicta tu in mulieribus et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.

Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Maria dixit: Ecce ancilla Domini, fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum.

Mary said: "Behold, the handmaid of the Lord, be it unto me according to thy Word."

Ave Maria, gratia plena Dominus tecum,

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;

Benedicta tu in mulieribus et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.

Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Sancta Maria, mater Dei, ora pro nobis peccatoribus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,

Nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.

now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

*ADVENT DOXOLOGY

Praise God from who 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 1:39-45

³⁹ In 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 leapt 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 leapt for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Mary's Witness

Darren Cushman Wood

*HYMN OF DEDICATION #238

Angels We Have Heard on High

***Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.***

Refrain: Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

***Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song? [Refrain]***

***Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King. [Refrain]***

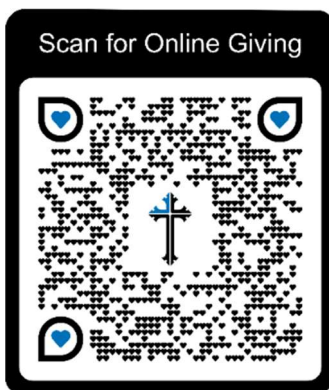
***See him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise. [Refrain]***

*THE CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

arr. K. Sadowski



Upcoming Events:

Longest Night Service, tonight, 5:00pm, Chapel:
For many of us holidays are difficult, even painful, at times. This simple service of silence and song, scripture and prayer will acknowledge the gift of letting go and celebrate the gift of holding fast to hope.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services, December 24:
Children and Families Service, 5:00pm
Celebration of Holy Communion, 7:30pm
Festival of Lessons and Carols, 10:30pm

Last Sunday of the Year, December 29, 11:00am
one combined worship service

Scan to sign up for our newsletter:



This week's worship leaders:

Darren Cushman Wood
Senior Pastor
Brandon Wallace
Minister of Christian Education
Jeff Warbinton
Liturgist
John Hague, Allen McCormack
& James Horton
Audio Visual
Mark Gilgallon
Music Director
Heather Hinton
Organist