



**KIMBALL MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
101 VANCE AVE. KANNAPOLIS, NC 28081

**December 24, 2023**      **Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**10:00 am**

**P: Pastor**

**A: Assisting Minister**

**L: Lector**

**C: Congregation**



FOURTH SUNDAY OF *Advent*

*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 is called king only as he is 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."*

**PRELUDE**

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*  
*Handbell Choir*

*~arr. S. Eithun*

**WELCOME**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things.

**C** Amen.

**P** Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P** God for whom we wait,

**C** in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you.

**We fail in believing that your good news is for us.**

**We falter in our call to tend your creation.**

**We find our sense of self in material wealth.**

**We fear those different from ourselves.**

**We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love.**

**Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace.**

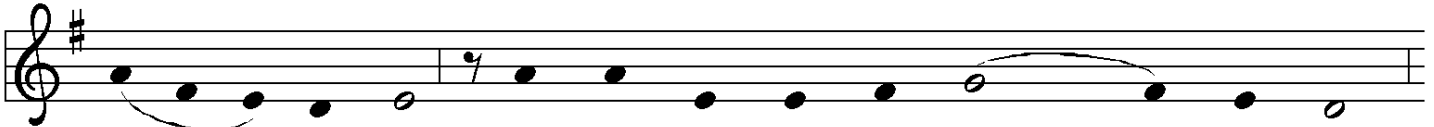
**Amen.**

**P** 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 of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things  
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;  
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law  
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

### GREETING

**A** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** And also with you.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer-cy.**

For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, let us

pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mer - cy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.

**A - men.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**A** Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may 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.

**C** Amen.

*(Please be seated)*

## LET'S TALK

### PSALM

**Luke 1:46b-55**

**L** A reading from the first chapter of St. Luke.

<sup>46b</sup>My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
<sup>48</sup>for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

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

<sup>49</sup>for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup>His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm;

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

<sup>52</sup>He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

<sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

<sup>55</sup>according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

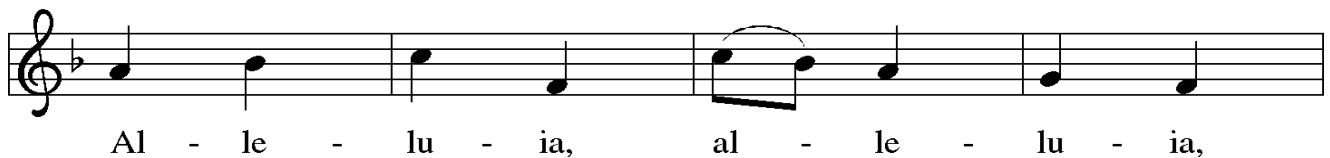
**L** Word of God, word of life.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**L** Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**ELW S124**



*Repeat alleluia*



## GOSPEL

Luke 1:26-38

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 1st chapter.

C



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

The musical notation is a single staff in treble clef with a common time signature (C). It consists of two measures. The first measure contains a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note C5. The second measure contains a quarter note G4, a quarter note F4, a quarter note E4, and a quarter note D4.

*In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people from little known places. This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in this gospel.*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>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. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>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. <sup>36</sup>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. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>Then 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.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C



Praise to you, O Christ.

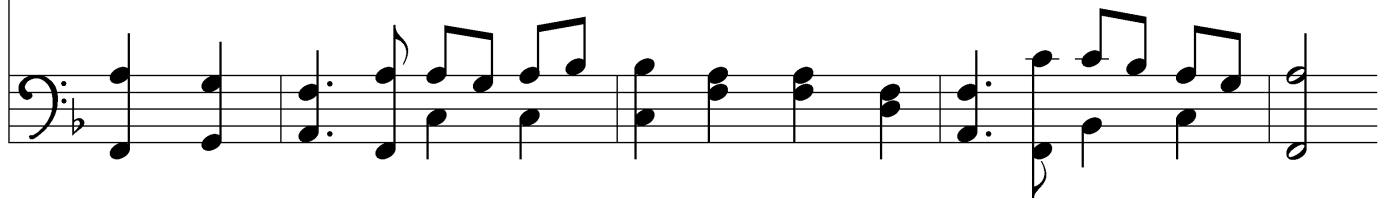
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## SERMON

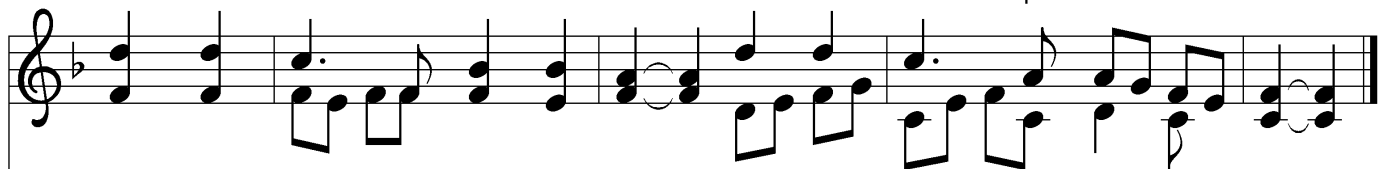
Pastor John Futterer



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,  
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,  
 3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;  
 4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,



where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed;  
 and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;  
 for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;  
 we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;



Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.  
 with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
 and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.  
 there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.



**CHOIR SINGS**

Maker of the stars of night, of the sun by day,  
rise in us and bring your light;  
burn our shadows away.

In the darkness where we dwell, we await the light of God, Emmanuel.

**RESPONSIVE LITURGY**

*He Will Be Called Everlasting Father*

**P** During Advent we wait for the coming Savior who is our Everlasting Father.

**C** **From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.**

**P** During Advent we look to the One who knows our deepest thoughts.

**C** **From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.**

**P** During Advent we look to the One who cares for our deepest needs.

**C** **From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.**

**P** During Advent we look to the One who knows our most pressing concerns.

**C** **From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.**

**P** During Advent we look to the One who knows our innermost being.

**C** **From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.**

*Candle Lighting*

**P** Today we light four candles. The **first candle**, reminds us of our hope in knowing Jesus as our Wonderful Counselor. The **second candle** reminds us of our joy in proclaiming Christ as Mighty God. The **third candle** grants us comfort knowing that Jesus is our Prince of Peace. We light the **fourth candle** to remind us that Jesus is our Everlasting Father. In a world of change, mobility and transition, we affirm that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.

**C**

Ev-er-last-ing Fa-ther, Prince of Peace,  
Won-der-ful Coun-se-lor, Al-might-y God,  
Em-man-u-el, Em-man-u-el,  
God with us, Em-man-u-el.

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

**P** Gracious Lord, as we continue our Advent journey, we acknowledge that very little in our world stays the same. Thank you for being our Everlasting Father, who is eternally present with us. We pray this in the name of Christ, our Savior.

**C** Amen.

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*The Nicene Creed*

**A** With the people of God in Christ now and in every time, let us confess our faith.

**C** **We believe in one God, the Father, the 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;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate from 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.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He 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.**

## **PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE**

**P** With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

*Each prayer petition will conclude: "Merciful God,"*  
*The congregation's response is: "receive our prayer."*

**P** Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

**C** Amen.



## SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

A Following his resurrection, the Lord Jesus breathed peace upon his disciples. We share in this peace of Christ in the Church today. The peace of the Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

A Please greet those around you with words of peace.

*(Especially greet the children and youth.)*

## OFFERING PRESENTATION

*(Please stand, as able)*

ELW 182



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

## OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray. God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from The earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C Amen.

## 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 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

**P** Gathered as one by the Holy Spirit let us pray, as Jesus taught.

**C** **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

**P** In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together. Come, take your place at the table.

**You may receive the Elements as the words are said:**  
***The Body of Christ given for you; The Blood of Christ shed for you.***

## ANTHEM

*Christmastime*

*~M. W. Smith*

## POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

**C** **Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**P** Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C** **Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

**P** The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit ✠ remain upon you now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.  
 heav'n and na - ture sing,

## DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Keep awake.

C Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

*Joy to the World*  
Keith Lee, Darla Steinert, trumpets

~arr. L. Larson



Join us tonight for either of our Christmas Eve Worship Services

**5:00 pm** Family Christmas Eve Communion and Candlelight

**11:00 pm** Christmas Eve Communion and Candlelight

*(Special Music begins at 10:30 pm)*

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