

# Order of Worship for December 20, 2020

## The Fourth Sunday in Advent

### Prelude

### Welcome

### *Gathering*

Let us join together to worship the God who fulfills all promises, Jesus Christ, the hope born of Mary, and the Holy Spirit, who fuels our hope as we await Christ's return.

### **Advent Wreath Lighting Week 4:**

With voices rising, rising like incense

We shout to you in hope

### **We shout to you in hope**

All around us is shouting

From the TV pundits and the ALL CAPS tweets

To family gatherings around the table

We want to turn it off and tune it out

Yet we shout today, shout with hope

We shout like our ancestors when they blew the trumpet in Zion

We shout like the meadows and valleys

We shout like the resurrected given new life

We shout with the multitude at the last

Today we shout because our past and our future unite

We shout because we know that love incarnate leads to life everlasting

We shout in this moment because if we don't the stones themselves would cry out

We shout because nothing can steal our praise

We shout with joy, a joy that comes in the morning, a joy to the world

We shout to you in hope, our God

### **We shout to you in hope our God**

You give us hope today

### **Lighting of the 4th Advent Candle**

### **Hymn: O Come O Come Emmanuel, vs. 1**

O come, o come, Emmanuel And ransom captive Israel

That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear

Rejoice! rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, o Israel.

## **Confession**

Jesus, who comes as new birth,  
we have prepared for you  
with comfortable traditions and humble requests.  
We have memorialized your birth  
as if it was a past act  
and not the bold declaration of a living God.  
We have rested in the safer hope of your work,  
abandoning our call as co-creators of the Beloved Community,  
harming your children with our ill-informed action and comfort-catering inaction.  
All this we humbly confess.  
Help us remember in this season of anticipation  
that we prepare not only for you,  
but because of you.  
Challenge us to examine our intentions,  
and to hold sacred both the act of preparing,  
and the transforming justice love of the one who comes.

**Amen**

## **Forgiveness**

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.  
Amen.

## **Prayer of the Day**

**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.**

**Amen.**

## **Psalm: Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26**

1Your love, O Lord, forever will I sing;  
from age to age my mouth will  
proclaim your faithfulness.

2For I am persuaded that your steadfast  
love is established forever;  
you have set your faithfulness firmly in  
the heavens.

3“I have made a covenant with my  
chosen one;

I have sworn an oath to David my  
servant:

4‘I will establish your line forever,  
and preserve your throne for all  
generations.’ ”

19You spoke once in a vision and said to  
your faithful people:

“I have set the crown upon a warrior  
and

have exalted one chosen out of the people.  
20I have found David my servant;  
with my holy oil have I anointed him.  
21My hand will hold him fast  
and my arm will make him strong.  
22No enemy shall deceive him,  
nor shall the wicked bring him down.  
23I will crush his foes before him  
and strike down those who hate him.

24My faithfulness and steadfast love are  
with him,  
and he shall be victorious through my  
name.  
25I will set his hand on the sea,  
and his right hand on the rivers.  
26He will say to me, 'You are my father,  
my God, and the rock of my salvation.'

## **Psalm Song: Forever Love (Psalm 89) by Richard Bruxvoort-Colligan**

**Sing of the Forever Love  
Let it ring true Let it shine  
Sing of the Forever Love  
Resonate through all your life  
Forever Love!**

**Verse 1:  
There is a love, a forever love love  
that's holding us  
Strong as a flood, big as the starry  
sky enfolding us  
Now let us sing what the Holy One  
has promised**

### **Children's Sermon**

#### **Old Testament Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16**

*Instead of David building a house (temple) for God, God promises to establish David's house (dynasty) forever. Centuries later, after the Babylonian exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the messiah, God's anointed.*

1Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, 2the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." 3Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

4But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: 5Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? 6I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. 7Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I

**Now let us sing what the Holy One  
has promised**

**Verse 2:  
It's nothing new, this ancient heart  
that's beating in you strong  
Nothing to lose; it's wrapped  
around you for your whole life long  
Now let us sing what the Holy One  
has promised  
Now let us sing what the Holy One  
has promised**

commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?” 8Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; 9and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. 10And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, 11from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. 16Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

### **Gospel: Luke 1:26-38**

***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.***

26In 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. 36And 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. 37For nothing will be impossible with God.” 38Then 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.

### **Sermon by Pastor Mark Anderson**

#### **Assistant to the Bishop, Northeastern Iowa Synod**

#### **Hymn: What Child is This**

1     What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
      on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
      Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
      while shepherds watch are keeping?  
      This, this is Christ the king,  
      whom shepherds guard and angels sing;

haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary!

2     Why lies he in such mean estate  
      where ox and ass are feeding?  
      Good Christian, fear; for sinners here

the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,  
the cross be borne for me, for you;  
hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
the babe, the son of Mary!

come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
the virgin sings her lullaby;  
joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
the babe, the son of Mary

3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;

### **Prayers of Intercession**

God of power and might, fulfill your promise and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

*A brief silence.*

Gracious God, all generations call you blessed. In this holy season we pray for our neighbors of other denominations and faiths. Inspire the faith of their people. Cultivate understanding among us and strengthen us in love and service to our community. Hear us, O God.

#### **Your mercy is great.**

Creator God, you scatter the proud. Everything we have belongs first to you. Bless and protect the seas, mountains, plains, forests, skies, and soils that surround us. Give us humility as we tend them. Hear us, O God.

#### **Your mercy is great.**

Righteous God, you humble the powerful and lift up the lowly. We pray for the leaders of all nations, that they amplify the voices of people in need. Guide all people entrusted with leadership, to create societies in which everyone can flourish. Hear us, O God.

#### **Your mercy is great.**

Compassionate God, you fill the hungry with good things and send the rich away empty. Nourish those who lack access to adequate food and nutrition. Bless the work of advocates, community organizers, and food pantries. Encourage others to provide for their neighbors in need. Hear us, O God.

#### **Your mercy is great.**

Healing God, you pour out mercy to all who cry out to you. Surround everyone in need of healing in body, mind, or spirit with your tender presence. During this time of pandemic, bring healing to all who are sick, peace to all who are dying, comfort to all who mourn, bring relief to all who feel overwhelmed or are dealing with the economic effects of the pandemic. Guide the work of health care workers, researchers, and scientists as they care for the sick and as they develop vaccines and treatments. Hear us, O God.

#### **Your mercy is great.**

Loving God, you bring hope in the midst of despair. Bring comfort to all who mourn, and help them to find hope in your promise of resurrection. We pray especially for the family and friends of Mary Sullivan. Hear us, O God.

#### **Your mercy is great.**

Eternal God, you are faithful to the promises you made to our forebears. We give thanks for the ministry of ancestors who organized, planned, dreamed, encouraged, and reached out as

they served you. We give thanks for the bold leadership of female leaders in our own time. Inspire others with their steadfast witness. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**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.**

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
who preached good news to the poor,  
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,  
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,  
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,  
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;

to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory, now and forever.  
Amen.

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**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**

Friends of Jesus, receive nourishment for your journey. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Receive the body of Christ, given for you.

Receive the blood of Christ, shed for you.

*All are invited to eat and drink the communion elements they brought with them. If desired, individuals from the same household may serve each other.*

## **Prayer after Communion**

God of the welcome table,  
in this meal we have feasted on your goodness  
and have been united by your presence among us.  
Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts  
so that we may share your neighborly love with all,  
through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life.  
**Amen.**

## **Hymn: Joy to the World**

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;

let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
and heav'n and nature sing,

and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 No more let sin and sorrow grow

nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

### **Blessing**

May you find time for rest this season  
May you create space to prepare  
May the Lord our God fill you with hope  
May Jesus Christ be ever present in your heart  
May the Holy Spirit illuminate your way

**Amen**

### **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

And have fun doing it.

**We will! Amen!**

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### **BY THE NUMBERS**

Check Register Balance 12/13/2020  
\$10,772.38  
Operating Bank Loan: \$4,912.27  
PPP Loan Balance: \$16,984 (Forgiven)

**Offering:** 12/13/2020  
Current: \$4,075  
Benevolence: \$702  
Improvement: \$335  
NS Benevolence: \$250  
Jesup Ministerial: \$200  
Food Pantry: \$100  
Memorial: \$15,000

## **Announcements:**

**Christmas Eve Services:** we will be opening up the building a few times on Christmas Eve (10am, 1pm, 4pm, and 7pm) to view the virtual Christmas pageant, for those who desire to see it on the screens in the sanctuary. Masks and social distancing will be required, and groups will be limited to 15 people each, with priority going to those who do not have internet access in their homes. You can sign up here:

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/180IE6bcDF6xj\\_0joAE65Ier1OcbcGglQkB1qrqjrc4/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/180IE6bcDF6xj_0joAE65Ier1OcbcGglQkB1qrqjrc4/edit?usp=sharing)

**Virtual Christmas Pageant:** This year, our Christmas Eve service will be a virtual Christmas Pageant, with the United Methodist church. We will also have a virtual choir as part of this service! If you would like to participate in the virtual choir, but need help with technology, please contact Pastor Kristen.

### **Virtual Choirs for online Christmas Eve service:**

\*\*\*\*\***All individuals and families** are invited to record themselves singing along with Silent Night, which may be found [here](https://youtu.be/wqndI4QtjE4): <https://youtu.be/wqndI4QtjE4> It works the best to listen on one device (like a computer or ipad) and record yourself on another device (like a phone). If you are able, please hold a lit candle while you sing. If you would like to participate but don't have the technology, or you need help, please let Pastor Kristen know. And if you feel self-conscious singing by yourself, please know that in the virtual choir, you will be singing along with lots of other people and nobody will be able to hear your individual voice. We are hoping for as much participation as possible!

\*\*\*\*\***Children** are also invited to record themselves singing along with Go Tell It On The Mountain, which may be found [here](https://youtu.be/EsJh-3HQNrM): <https://youtu.be/EsJh-3HQNrM> Again, it works best to listen on one device while recording on another. If you would like to participate but don't have the technology, or you need help, please let Pastor Kristen know.

**Videos can be sent by text message to Pastor Kristen at 563-212-1366, sent via Facebook Messenger, or uploaded to [this Google drive](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/130Pk5BwOoEWSCVMpW9Fxyz7E_spx7-Ed):**

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/130Pk5BwOoEWSCVMpW9Fxyz7E\\_spx7-Ed](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/130Pk5BwOoEWSCVMpW9Fxyz7E_spx7-Ed) **Please send on or before December 20.**

**Prayer Request:** Mary Jo Sullivan passed away on December 13th. Please keep her family in your prayers.

**Military members:** Jordan Leach is home from Sheppard AFB TX. Both he and Justin are at the 185th Air Refueling Wing in Sioux City, IA. If you know of anyone else serving in the armed forces, please contact the church office ([secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org](mailto:secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org)) or (827-6626). We'd like to remember them in our prayers.

**Prayer Requests:** We know that this is currently an especially stressful time for health care workers and school employees. If you would like to include a healthcare worker or school employee by name

(first name only) in the prayers of intercession for this season, please tell Pastor Kristen ([pastor@americanlutheranjesup.org](mailto:pastor@americanlutheranjesup.org)) or Jessica ([secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org](mailto:secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org)) or (827-6626).

**Offering Envelopes:** Your 2021 envelopes may be picked up at Shirley Bergman's porch at 1115

6th St. across from the church Sunday the 13th and until Christmas Eve. Also they will be at the church Christmas Eve.

**Advent Sermon Series:** The sermons for the Sundays in Advent will be from members of the synod staff of the Northeastern Iowa Synod. The Sermons will be based on the ELCA World Hunger Advent Study, [God With Us](#). A copy of this study may be downloaded from our church website.

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