



KIMBALL MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
101 VANCE ST. KANNAPOLIS, NC 28081

December 22, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30 am

GATHERING

Almost There

~Amy Grant. Michael W Smith. Wes King

VERSE



1. Mar y, full of in - no - cence, car - ry - ing the Ho - ly Prince: you're
(2.) lone ly road, a will - ing heart, prayer for strength to do your part; you're



al - most there, you're al - most there. Moth - er of the Liv - ing Word,
al - most there, you're al - most there. Trust the Fa - ther to pro - vide,



trust - ing in the voice you heard: you're al - most there, you're al - most there. You're
bread of Heav - en pro - phe - sied; you're al - most there, you're al - most there. You're
(You're)

§ **CHORUS 1, 2a & 3a**



al - most where the an - gels' see re - demp - tion's plan un - fold - ing. All
al - most where the wait - ing ends, de - liv - er - ing the life with - in. The
al - most where your jour - ney ends, where death will die and life be - gins. The



hope is in the Son you'll bear. You're al - most there. A there. You're
an - swered prayer, Em - man - u - el; you're al - most
an - swered prayer, Em - man - u - el; you're al - most,



al - most there.

CHORUS 2b & 3b



You're al - most where the wait - ing ends, de - liv - er - ing the
(You're) al - most where your jour - ney ends, where death will die and

continued...

31

life with - in. The an - swered prayer, Em - man - u - el; you're al - most there. You're
 life be - gins. The an - swered prayer, Em - man - u - el; you're al - most

36

there.

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

C Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.

P Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God of new beginnings,

C we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. 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.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

by Mary Lu Walker, edited by Pastor David R. Keck, Sr

Advent 4:

Light the Advent Candle four;
 Mary sings of what's in store:
 Rich and proud will lose their place!
 Lowly poor will know God's grace! (*Refrain*)

Refrain:

Candle, candle, burning bright,
 Shining in the cold winter night;
 Candle, candle, burning bright,
 Fill our hearts with Christ's own light.

READING Micah 5:2-5a

The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.

L A reading from the fifth chapter of Micah.

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; ^{5a} and he shall be the one of peace.

L Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

HOLY COMMUNION

We have two options for Communion during this time. You are free to come forward to receive the bread and pre-filled cups of wine from our clergy and lay assistants, returning to your seats after you've deposited the empty cup and following the guidance of our ushers; or you may continue to use the pre-packaged communion elements which are available from the ushers at the entrance to the Sanctuary. However you choose to receive Communion this morning, know that we are glad you're here for this Sacrament!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

(Sung)

C Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away, slain for us, and we remember the promise made that all who come in faith find forgiveness at the cross. So we share in this bread of life, and we drink of His sacrifice as a sign of our bonds of peace around the table of the King.

P The body of our Savior Jesus Christ, torn for you—eat and remember the wounds that heal, the death that brings us life paid the price to make us one.

Refrain

C So we share in this bread of life, and we drink of His sacrifice as a sign of our bonds of love around the table of the King.

P The blood that cleanses every stain of sin, shed for you—drink and remember He drained death's cup that all may enter in to receive the life of God.

Refrain

C And so with thankfulness and faith we rise to respond, and to remember our call to follow in the steps of Christ as His body here on earth. As we share in His suffering, we proclaim Christ will come again! And we'll join in the feast of heaven around the table of the King.

THE 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 God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to 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.

Healing Prayer is available under the balcony during Communion if you desire prayer.

COMMUNION SONG *ELW 279*

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P The Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

C Amen.

SCRIPTURE SONG

Come to the Child

Gaylen Bourland, Ken Bible

Chorus 1

Come to the Child of Bethlehem
See Him the Son of God and man
Think of the life
That now has filled our flesh and bone
Come to the Child in wonder now
Think of our God imagine how
Heaven could fill this simple Child of Bethlehem
Come and worship Come and honor Him
Come and bow Now lay your pride and plans aside
Come and praise Him Lift your heart to Him
He is your God He is your hope and He is love
Worship your Lord the simple Child of Bethlehem

Chorus 2

Come to the table of the Lord
See Him the bread and wine out-poured
Think of the holy life He brings to every heart
Come to the feast in wonder now
Think of His love imagine how
You are invited to this table of the Lord
Alleluia Alleluia
Holy Lamb of God the Savior of the world
Alleluia Lord we lift our hearts
You are the Way You are the Truth and You are love
You are invited to this table of the Lord

GREETING

P The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

PRAYER OF DAY

A Let us pray. Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

LET'S TALK

Children's Time

GOSPEL Luke 1:39-45

Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

P The Gospel of the Lord

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor John Futterer

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.

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

A Please kneel or be seated for the Prayers.

Prayer petitions will conclude: "Lord, in your mercy,"

The congregation's response is: "receive our prayer."

P Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

P God of endings and beginnings,
God in the darkness and the light,
God, our hope for the journey,
✠ bless and keep you now and forever.

C **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Joy to the World

Next Page

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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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,