

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2020 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE HOLY SPIRIT CALLS US TOGETHER AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD

PRELUDE *Bourree from Cello Suite no. 3* by Scott Freisthler

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

L: Restore us, O God;
Shine your face upon us.
That we may be saved. (Psalm 80:3)

God with us, Immanuel.
The angels have visited and Joseph has heard.
Behold, the virgin conceives and
God saves us through a Son. (Matthew 1)

Now it's time to light the candles,
Love has been given, God's face has shined.
We are saved and the Lord has won.

**C: Light will overcome the darkness:
Share the love the Christ Child brings.**

O Come, O Come Emmanuel (ELW #257 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 you, O Israel.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: We worship this morning in the name of the Father, and the Son +, and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

P: Lord, Help! Really, we need help! We want to be loving and all that, but darn it, the world makes it so hard. Frustration – “why can't other people figure it out?” Judgment – “why are they doing it wrong?” And no patience – “why can't they just hurry up?” These emotions we get. Love isn't even in the race right now.

**C: Lord, send your Love to find us. Come into our world and show us what your love is.
Come to us. Be with us. We ask your blessing on this time. Fill us with your love.**

P: Let us come before God in confession.

(A time for personal confession and reflection.)

P: To you, O God,

C: To you, O God, we lift up our souls. You know us through and through; we confess our sins to you. Remember not our sins; remember us with your steadfast love. Show us your ways; be our joy; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loves us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

SHARING A SIGN OF CHRIST'S PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

C: And also with you!

GATHERING SONG *Of the Father's Love Begotten* (ELW #295, vs 1,2,3,5)

**1 Of the Father's love begotten
 ere the worlds began to be,
 he is Alpha and Omega,
 he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
 and that future years shall see,
 evermore and evermore.**

**2 Oh, that birth forever blessed,
 when the virgin, full of grace,
 by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
 bore the Savior of our race,
and the babe, the world's redeemer,
 first revealed his sacred face,
 evermore and evermore.**

**3 This is he whom seers in old time
 chanted of with one accord,
 whom the voices of the prophets
 promised in their faithful word;
now he shines, the long-expected;
 let creation praise its Lord
 evermore and evermore.**

**5 Christ, to thee, with God the Father,
 and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
 and unwearied praises be:
 honor, glory, and dominion,
 and eternal victory
 evermore and evermore! Amen.**

P: 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Father God,

There is no miracle as grand as birth. As we prepare for the coming of your son, Jesus, create in us new life. Transform us so that we may reflect the light of your son, and become beacons of goodness, kindness, compassion, generosity, honesty, patience, and peace, for the sake of the one whose name brings deliverance and life to all the world, Jesus Christ, infant king. Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

GOD SPEAKS TO US IN SCRIPTURE, PREACHING AND SONG

FIRST READING Luke 1: 26-38

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL Luke 1: 39-56

Before the Gospel is read: **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

After the Reading: **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON – Pastor Amanda Olson de Castillo

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

HYMN OF THE DAY ***My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness*** (ELW #251)

**1 My soul proclaims your greatness, Lord;
I sing my Savior's praise!
You looked upon my lowliness,
and I am full of grace.
Now ev'ry land and ev'ry age
this blessing shall proclaim—
great wonders you have done for me,
and holy is your name.**

**2 To all who live in holy fear
your mercy ever flows.
With mighty arm you dash the proud,
their scheming hearts expose.
The ruthless you have cast aside,
the lowly throned instead;
the hungry filled with all good things,
the rich sent off unfed.**

**3 To Israel, your servant blest,
your help is ever sure;
the promise to our parents made
their children will secure.
Sing glory to the Holy One,
give honor to the Word,
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High,
one God, by all adored.**

APOSTLE'S CREED

P: Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed:

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

After each petition.. P: Hear us, O God. C: Your mercy is great.

GOD FEEDS US WITH THE PRESENCE OF JESUS CHRIST

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things,

C: Through your mercy you have blessed us with our body and souls, all of our faculties and our property. Use us, and what you have given us in feeding the world with your faith and your forgiveness. We give you thanks and praise because you have blessed us with the greatest gift we can ever have, the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

For God So Loved (W&P 39)

**For God so loved the world
That He gave His only begotten Son
That whosoever believes in Him
Should not perish but**

**Have life everlasting have life everlasting
Have life everlasting have life everlasting
For God so loved the world
That He gave His only begotten Son**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING
SANCTUS (SPOKEN)
WORDS OF INSTITUTION
LORD'S PRAYER**

COMMUNION BLESSING

COMMUNION PRAYER

P: O God, our life, our strength, our food,

C: We give you thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of your Son. By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to proclaim your promises to the world, that we will give you praise and serve your earth and its many peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GOD BLESSES US AND SENDS US IN MISSION TO THE WORLD

BLESSING

P: The Lord Bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you His peace. Amen.

SENDING

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you. **C: Thanks be to God!**

Music By Dani Lemieux & Scott Freisthler

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