

A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2020

9:00 a.m.

**All who are able may stand.*

Bold type spoken by the congregation

Self-service assistive listening devices are located on top of the bookcase at the rear of the Sanctuary on the Princess Anne St. side.

GATHERING. . .

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*Masks are to be worn throughout the service.
Please remain seated for the hymns.*
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The Prelude

Creator of the Stars of Night

arr. Michael McCabe

The Welcome and Announcements

The Introit

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Paul Manz

The Call To Worship

Lighting of the *Advent Candles*, Susie Davis

...As we light our fourth Advent Candle

We rejoice with Mary, for Love has flesh.

Come now, O Child of Mary.

Come now, O Prince of Love.

The Prayer of Adoration

God of love, our hearts are moved by Your gracious promises fulfilled for us in Jesus Christ. We rejoice in Your constant care and faithfulness as we gather to worship You and declare to any who will listen that You are our God, and we are Your people. Keep Your Spirit among us as we worship, that our eyes may be opened to the light of Your presence here and in all places where Your people are gathered. To You alone, Faithful Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, be all glory and honor, now and forever. Amen.

The Hymn 360

Christ Is Coming!

*Christ is coming! Let creation from its groans and labor cease;
let the glorious proclamation hope restore and faith increase: Christ is coming!
Christ is coming! Come, O blessed Prince of peace.*

*With that blessed hope before us, flutes are tuned and harps are strung;
let the mighty advent chorus onward roll from tongue to tongue: Christ is coming!
Christ is coming! Let each heart repeat the song.*

*Long your exiles have been pining for your promised rest and home,
but in heavenly glory shining, soon the risen Christ shall come. Christ is coming!
Christ is coming! Joyful, shout the victory psalm*

*The Prayer of Confession

O promised Christ, we are a world at war; our peace depends on Your coming. We are a broken people; our pardon depends on Your coming. We are full of good intentions, but weak at keeping promises; our only hope of doing God's will is that You should come and help us do it. Lord Christ, Word made flesh, our world waits for Your peace, for Your pardon, and for Your grace. Come, Lord Jesus. Come to us in the silence and hear the confessions of our hearts that we cannot yet speak aloud ... (time for silent confession)...

*The Assurance of Pardon

Friends, grace is becoming real. Believe it.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.

The Gloria Patri (spoken)

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: World without end. Amen.**

*The Peace and Greeting

The peace of Christ be with you all. And also with you!

(Please stand to greet one another in the name of Christ. For those worshipping at home, please share Christ's peace with someone outside Your home this week.)

TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD. . .

The Prayer for Illumination

The Old Testament Lesson: *2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16*

The Psalter Lesson: *Psalms 89:1-4, 19-26*

The Epistle Lesson: *Romans 16:25-27*

The Gospel Lesson: *Luke 1:26-38*

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Anthem

Canticle of Mary

Jeffrey L. Ames

Chris Fisher, Patti Kerns, Mary Ann Casey, Hannah Fisher, Brendan Shirk, oboe

The Sermon

Here Am I

Brittany Tamminga

The *Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

TO RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD. . .

The Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The Lord's Prayer

**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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

TO GO FORTH AND SERVE IN GOD'S NAME. . .

The Hymn 104

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

*O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you a right? Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, Lord most holy, a lamp within my breast, to do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.*

*Love caused your incarnation; love brought you down to me; your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.
O love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace in love, all loves excelling, our lost and fallen race.*

*You come, O Lord, with gladness, in mercy and goodwill, to bring an end to sadness and bid our fears be still.
In patient expectation we live for that great day when your renewed creation your glory shall display.*

The Charge & Benediction

The Postlude

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

arr. Anna Laura Page



Kindly remain seated during the Postlude.

You will be dismissed by our Safety Ushers from the back to the front of the Sanctuary.

We appreciate your cooperation and understanding.

