



Our Mission...

to be an accepting Christian community dedicated to living, sharing and teaching the Word of God.

We respect all aspects of people including race, ethnicity, gender expression, sexual orientation, socio-economic background, age, religion, mental wellness, and ability.

The Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 20th, 2020

Bold print indicates a congregational response.

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

WELCOME and ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

We acknowledge that we meet and work in Treaty 1 land, the traditional lands of the Anishinaabe, Cree and Dakota peoples, and the homeland of the Metis nation. We are thankful for these first inhabitants and we commit to working together towards justice, truth and reconciliation.

THE LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

*The Advent wreath is a circle with no beginning and no end.
It is a symbol of God's unending love and faithfulness.*

**The shepherds were the first to hear
the joyful announcement of Christ's birth—
the good news of great joy for all the people.**

*Upon seeing the baby Jesus, the shepherds
spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child,
and all who heard it were amazed.*

We have also heard this wonderful news.

*Though we have not seen Jesus, we love him;
and even though we do not see him now, we believe in him.*

And we are filled with an expressible and glorious joy.

PRELUDE *by Robin Polley #69 VU- "Away in a Manger"*
(Music played with permission under license #A-620529 One License)

~Kirkpatrick/Hassell

**1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Here in our midst, O God of mystery,
you disclose the secret hidden for countless ages.
For you we wait; for you we listen.
Upon hearing your voice
may we, like Mary, embrace your will
and become a dwelling fit for your Word.
Grant this through him whose coming is certain,
whose day draws near:
your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READINGS: *Donna Price*

The Epistle

Romans 16: 25-27

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

The Gospel Reading

Luke 1: 26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 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. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' 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. 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. For nothing will be impossible with God.' 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.

RESPONSE: *This is the word of God.*

Thanks be to God

The Magnificat (Song of Mary)

Luke 1: 46-55

~Rev. Don Johnson

*And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'*

GOSPEL RESPONSE:

The Gospel of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON:

"The Joy of Mary"

~Rev. Don Johnson (see the attached sermon)

SPECIAL MUSIC by Cec Anderson – **"What Child Is This"**

(Music played with permission under license #A-620529 One License)

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

A CONFESSION OF FAITH

A New Creed

We are not alone; we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,

who has come in Jesus,

the Word made flesh,

to reconcile and make new,

who works in us and others

by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God's presence,

to live with respect in Creation,

to love and serve others,

to seek justice and resist evil,

**to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us. We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.**

PRAYERS

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 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,
the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

THE DOXOLOGY

(based on Ephesians 3:20-21)

**Glory to God
whose power, working in us,
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God from generation to generation,
in the Church and in Christ Jesus, forever and ever. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

*Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you
and prepare your hearts and souls
to meet him when he comes in glory;
and the blessing of God the Holy Trinity
be yours now and always. Amen.*

POSTLUDE *by Robin Polley* – #64 VU “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

~Brooks/Redner

(Music played with permission under license #A-620529 One License)