

Bulletin Information  
**December 19, 2021**  
Fourth Sunday of Advent

**We Gather to Worship God**

Prelude

Lighting the Candles and Ringing the Bell

Welcome and Announcements

\*Call to Worship:

One: Out of little Bethlehem comes one who is to rule Israel.

**All: He shall be great to the ends of the earth.**

One: Our spirits rejoice in God our savior.

**All: God's mercy extends from generation to generation.  
Holy is God's name!**

\*Morning Prayer

Stir up your power, O God, and come to set us free by the righteousness of your birth in our midst, by the light of your face shining upon us, and by becoming our brother, our friend, our salvation. We pray this in the name of the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, mother of us all. Amen.

\*Hymn *While We Are Waiting, Come* (verse 1) (screen)

\*Lighting of the Advent Candle

One: Let us pray.

**All: Loving God, we open ourselves to you this Advent season. As these candles are lit, light our lives with faith. Show us the creative power of Hope. Teach us the Peace that comes from justice. Fill us with the kind of Joy that cannot be contained but must be shared. Magnify your Love within us. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.**

\*Hymn *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* PH-8

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**God of our savior, we ask for your mercy. Though we have heard Mary's song, we still seek security in pride and power and possessions. Though we know your story, we resist the cost of following you. We pass by those considered lowly in this world. We turn away from hungry people who still wait to be filled. Forgive us, we pray. Help us work for the justice you intend. Make us messengers of the peace you bring. As we wait for you, turn our apathy into acts of love and service...**

*(Pause for a few moments of silent reflection and personal confession.)*

**...We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. Amen.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

Words of Peace

\*Congregational Response

*Glory Be to the Father*

PH #579

**We Listen For God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Lesson

Micah 5:2-5a

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Responsive Psalm and Psalm Prayer

Psalm 80:1-7

One: Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

**All: In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.**

One: Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

**All: O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?**

One: You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

**All: You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

**Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

One: Lord God, you so tend the vine you planted that now it extends its branches throughout the world. Keep us in Christ as branches on the vine, that grafted firmly in your love, we may show the whole world your great power and bear the fruit of righteousness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

New Testament Lesson

Hebrews 10:5-10

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Lesson

Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

*The Visitation*

**We Respond to God's Word**

\*Hymn

*Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

PH-22

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.**

Invitation to the Offering

Offering

\*Congregational Response

*Doxology*

Prayer of Dedication

\*Affirmation of Faith

A Brief Statement of Faith

**In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.**

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.**

**In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

**With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**We Leave to Serve God**

\*Hymn

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

PH-31

\*Charge and Benediction

\*Congregational Response

*While We Are Waiting, Come*

Postlude

Sermon Text for next Sunday: Luke 1:41-45