

# The Fourth Sunday of Advent December 20, 2020 Morning Prayer

# Lighting of the Advent Candle: The Wonder of Hope

- P: During Advent we ignite the wonder of expectation.
- C: Open our eyes, O Lord, to behold your glory.
- P: During Advent we look for the light that shines in the darkness.
- C: Open our eyes, O Lord, to behold your glory.
- P: During Advent we embrace the hope that enlivens the soul.
- C: Open our eyes, O Lord, to behold your glory.
- P: During Advent we welcome the Savior who beckons the world.
- C: Open our eyes, O Lord, to behold your glory.
- P: During Advent we rejoice in the One who has reclaimed the lost.
- C: Open our eyes, O Lord, to behold your glory.

# Candle Lighting:

Today we light the four candles. The **first candle** calls us to behold the glory of the season with renewed wonder. Advent is a time to be awed by God's redeeming love for the lost and broken. The **second candle** calls us to reclaim the promises of God spoken in ages past. As the light fills this room, so the Word of God fills our world with hope for the hurting, peace for the restless, and joy for the heavy hearted. The **third candle** is an invitation to wait patiently upon the Lord. In a world where we often lack for patiences, Adsvent reminds us to rest in Gord's timing and trut God's plan. The **fourth candle** challnenges us to grow in faithful expectation. As people whose faith often becomes tamed to the miraculous, Advent is a time to remember afresh a God in whom all things are possible. alling us to behold God's promise, and embrace the gift of a Savior who is Christ our Lord.

# Blessing:

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. In your Son, Emmanuel, you have shown us your light and saved us from the power of sin.
Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Increase our longing for your presence, that at the celebration of your Son's birth his Spirit might dwell anew in our midst, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

Amen.

#### DIALOGUE AND DOXOLOGY

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

#### **PSALMODY**

The Sun of righteousness will arise with healing in his wings.

Oh, come, let us worship and praise.

O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. **O that today you would listen to his voice!** 

The Sun of righteousness will arise with healing in his wings. **Oh, come, let us worship and praise.** 

Your love, O LORD, forever will I sing. (Ps. 89:1)

¹Your love, O LORD, forever will I sing;

from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

<sup>2</sup>For I am persuaded that your steadfast love is established forever; you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.

3"I have made a covenant with my chosen one;

I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

4'I will establish your line forever,

and preserve your throne for all generations."

<sup>19</sup>You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people:

"I have set the crown upon a warrior and have exalted one chosen out of the people.

<sup>20</sup>I have found David my servant;

with my holy oil have I anointed him.

<sup>21</sup>My hand will hold him fast

and my arm will make him strong.

<sup>22</sup>No enemy shall deceive him,

nor shall the wicked bring him down.

<sup>23</sup>I will crush his foes before him

and strike down those who hate him.

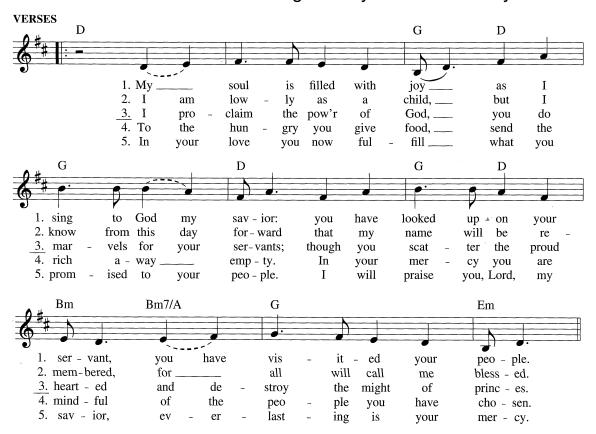
<sup>24</sup>My faithfulness and steadfast love are with him, and he shall be victorious through my name.

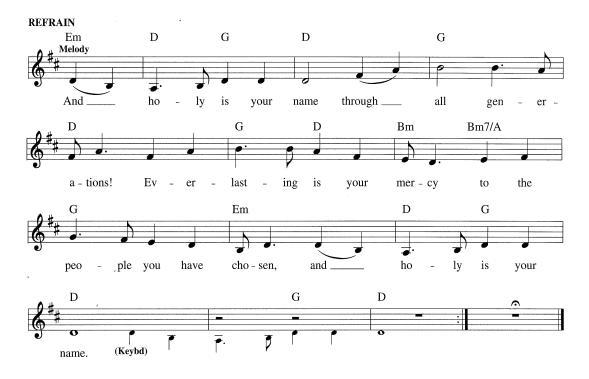
<sup>25</sup>I will set his hand on the sea, and his right hand on the rivers.

# <sup>26</sup>He will say to me, 'You are my father, my God, and the rock of my salvation.'

Your love, O LORD, forever will I sing. (Ps. 89:1)

# CANTICLE OF PRAISE: The Song of Mary Scottish Melody arr. David Haas





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## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.** 

#### READINGS

# First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

<sup>1</sup>Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup>the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." <sup>3</sup>Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: <sup>5</sup>Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? <sup>6</sup>I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. <sup>7</sup>Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" <sup>8</sup>Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; <sup>9</sup>and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. <sup>16</sup>Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

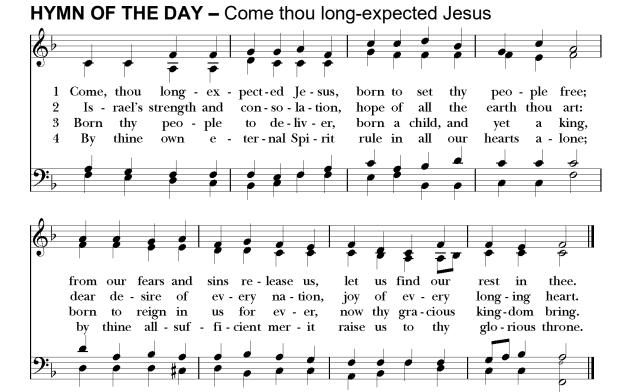
# Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

<sup>25</sup>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 <sup>26</sup>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—<sup>27</sup>to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

# **Gospel: Luke 1:26-38**

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>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. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>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. <sup>36</sup>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. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>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.

#### SERMON



Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days God has spoken to us by the Son.

#### **GOSPEL CANTICLE**

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty Savior, born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God, the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen

# **PRAYERS**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** 

Let us pray.

A brief silence for prayer follows each petition.

Mighty God of mercy, we thank you for the resurrection dawn, bringing the glory of our risen Lord who makes every day new.

Especially we thank you—

for the sustaining goodness of your creation . . .

for the new creation in Christ and all gifts of healing and forgiveness . . .

for the gifts of relationship with others . . .

for the communion of faith in your church . . .

## Other thanksgivings may be added.

Merciful God of might, renew this weary world, heal the hurts of all your children, and bring about your peace for all in Christ Jesus, the living Lord.

Especially we pray—

for those who govern nations of the world . . .

for the people in countries ravaged by strife or warfare . . .

for all who work for peace and international harmony . . .

for all who strive to save the earth from carelessness and destruction . . .

for the church of Jesus Christ in every land . . .

# Other intercessions may be added.

Almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us in safety to this new day. Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin nor be overcome in adversity. In all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have protected us through the night from all harm and danger. We ask that you would also protect us today from sin and all evil, so that our life and actions may please you. Into your hands we commend ourselves: our bodies, our souls, and all that is ours. Let your holy angels be with us, so that the wicked foe may have no power over us. **Amen.** 

#### LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

#### **BLESSING**

Let us bless the Lord.

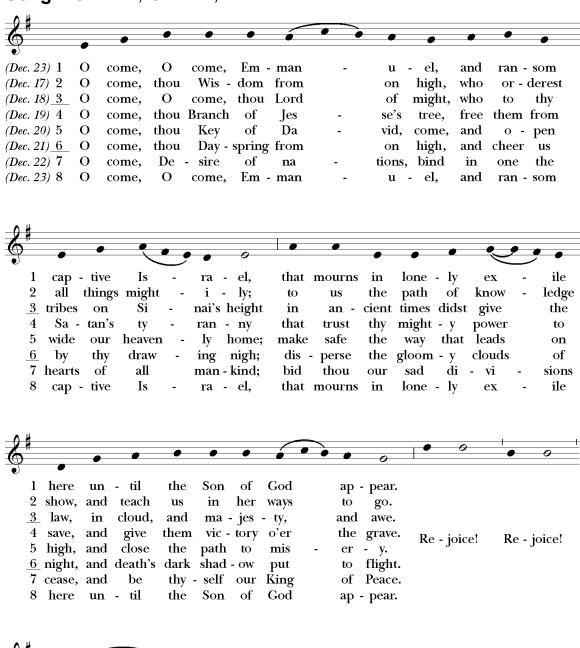
Thanks be to God.

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting. the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,

+ now and forever. Amen.

Almighty God bless us and direct our days and our deeds in peace. Amen.

# Song - O come, O come, Emanuel



The stanzas may be used as antiphons with "The Song of Mary" on the dates given.

el

Em - man

shall come

thee,

to

O

ra - el!

**Christmas Services** 

Christmas Eve 5:30 PM Christmas Day 9:00 AM Home Communion for both services.

First Sunday of Christmas (12/27) 9:30 AM

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