

The Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 20, 2020

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude ~ Leigh Emmett

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle ~ *responsive*

Leader: O God, we light the fourth candle of Advent.

People: We hear your angel Gabriel and witness the faith of Mary. Fill us with your grace and light.

Leader: Mary was a young, strong, spiritual woman. Even though her life was not easy, she heard God's voice and said yes. Her song was a prayer that would uplift those who were downtrodden.

People: Mary's lyrics shattered the proud and called the world to change. She would bear within her the promised child, Jesus, the Light of the World. This Advent, we respond to God's beckoning to us as well.

Unison: Revealing God, visit us and fill us with your Spirit. Bring your good news to life within us. Give us courage to carry your light into the injustices and shadows of this world. Amen.

*At this time you are invited to light your fourth Advent candle and sing..*

Lighting of the fourth candle of Advent

Choral Response ~ *"Light One Candle"*

*Light one candle for hope, one bright candle for hope,*

*He brings hope to ev'ry heart, He comes! He comes!*

*Light one candle for peace, one bright candle for peace,*

*He brings peace to ev'ry heart, He comes! He comes!*

*Light one candle for joy, one bright candle for joy*

*Ev'ry nation will find salvation in Bethl'em's baby boy.*

*Light one candle for love, one bright candle for love,*

*He brings love to ev'ry heart, He comes! He comes!*

*He brings love to ev'ry heart, He comes! He comes!*

Call to Worship

Leader: I will sing of your steadfast love. O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

**People:** I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

**Leader:** You said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to my servant David: I will establish your descendants forever, and build your throne for all generations.”

**People:** Let the heavens praise your wonders, O Lord, your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones.

Advent Prayer ~ *in unison*

God of grace, your eternal Word took flesh among us when Mary placed her life at the service of your will. Prepare our hearts for his coming again; keep us steadfast in hope and faithful in service, that we may receive the coming of his kingdom, for the sake of Jesus Christ the ruler of all, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*\*you are invited to stand in body or in spirit*

*\*Hymn #145 ~ “What Child Is This”*

Time with children ~ Bible Presentation

Prayer for Illumination

Responsive Chorus #104 ~ “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You” (v. 1)

*O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright? 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.*

Hebrew Scripture ~ Isaiah 9:2-7

Dance ~ Karen Barsy

Christian Scripture ~ Luke 1:26-38

Message ~ “Much Perplexed”

*\*Hymn #128~ “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”*

Community at Prayer

*\*Invitation to Prayer #360 ~ “Christ Is Coming!” (v. 1)*

*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.*

## Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer ~ *in unison*

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.

\*Hymn #144 ~ *"In the Bleak Midwinter"*

\*Passing the Peace

\*Benediction

\* Choral Response #601 ~ *"Amen"*

*Amen, Amen, Amen*

## Postlude

CCLI#2342595 CVLI#504305417

**Your Council sends you these highlights from their December 15, 2020 meeting:**

- 1) The council will be making calls to the congregation, reaching out to see how you are doing, as we want to stay in contact, especially at Christmas time! So be expecting a call.
- 2) As of the council meeting, we had 39 pledges to the General Fund for \$93,603.00 and 21 pledges to the Building Improvement Fund for \$17,500.00 Last year we worked our budget from 53 pledges of \$145,837.00 for the General Fund and 30 pledges to the Building Improvement Fund of \$33,674.00. If you have not already made your pledge, please get those turned in by the end of the year so that Council can make a workable budget for 2021. This is particularly important for the PNC to have so they can offer a salary to support an incoming pastor.
- 3) The Caroling Night was a success. We had 23 cars join us to sing and enjoy Christmas Carols while staying socially distanced! Merry Christmas everyone!

## **REMINDERS!!!**

**ALL offerings and special donations, including the 2020 Giving Tree donations to support Penrickton Center, should be sent AS SOON AS POSSIBLE! The mail delivery is somewhat compromised this year and in order to be credited and deposited for 2020 all monies need to be received no later than December 30. There is a secure mailbox at the church where donations can be dropped off as well. The office will be closed on December 31 and January 1.**

## The Christmas Joy Offering

God saw the great needs of the world and offered the perfect gift, Jesus Christ. In Jesus, we receive the perfect gift of God being with us, and of being with those in need-the gift of being together when we are near, and being together when we are apart. When we give to the Christmas Joy Offering, we share our love with the leaders of our Church-past, present and future. Half of the offering goes to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions to help current and past church workers and their families in their time of critical financial need. The other half supports education and leadership development at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

**PLEASE use the designated envelope and write your checks for their Christmas Eve donations payable to THE BOARD OF DEACONS. The Board has a bank account completely separate from St. Paul's! Thank you!!**



Janet Frank, Karen Bright, Sheldon Davis, Doris Knecht, Joyce Barton, Gail Artinian  
Pam Phillips, Suzanne Tabaka, Jim & Joanna Roye, Nola Bonandrini, Tamar Duthie, Frank & Nancy Saunders  
Jerry Stone, Beverly Dearth, Anita Falk, Kathleen Warren, Bob Liebertz, Grace Campbell, Susan Grant  
Bruce Phillips, Patricia Hutchison, Linda Thompson & her sister, Shirley Kircoff  
Rich McKenzie ~ son of Jean; Gloria Eberlein ~ mother of Dawn Malott; Brendan Morris ~ fiance of Kyrie Bowman  
Don Potter ~ father of Don; Erin Lewis ~ daughter of Pattie Benoit; Thomas Peoples ~ friend of Jeff Graham  
Phyllis Badman ~ niece of Georgia Hunt; Christie Piastowski ~ daughter of Karen Bright  
Janet Kusahara ~ cousin of Meta Tulley; Joe Ducsay ~ friend of Mike & Carol Graham; Mark Osborne ~ son of Janet  
Hannah Elton ~ great niece of Judy McGregor; Sarah & Mason Young ~ cousins of Judy McGregor  
Bob Kortenhoeven ~ brother of a friend of Judy McGregor  
Diane Calloway & Tony S. ~ cousins of Gail Artinian; MaryAnn Tabaka ~ mother of Suzanne  
Eric Tabaka ~ nephew of Suzanne; Cyndi Knecht ~ daughter of Doris; Joe Perko ~ friend of Wanda & Bob Seymour  
David Bonandrini ~ son of Nola & Ben; Zoe Marcus ~ friend of Karen Erwin  
Gideon Janku ~ great nephew of Bob Westbrook; Judy Siegfried ~ sister-in-law of Pam Phillips  
Randy Tillman ~ son of Gloria Rubbo; Leslie Benoit ~ daughter of Tamar Duthie  
Mary Rayes ~ friend of Pat Hutchison; Adam Schilling & Eric Shilling ~ grandsons of Ron & Janet Frank  
Donald Keller III ~ son of Jan Lapenta; Scott Davis ~ son of Sheldon & Marion Davis

**Please review the prayer list and report any changes to the office as soon as possible.**



**Donations to support the Board of Deacons 2020 Advent Hunger Ministry have been received from...**

Jan Burgess	In memory of her mom and dad
Emma Dale-Hench	As a gift to St. Paul's
Jim and Charlotte Day	In memory of Charlotte's brother, William Nugent In memory of their parents, Bill and Margaret Day and Melvin and Mary Larson
Leigh Emmett	As a gift to St. Paul's
Jim Faile and Barb McLaughlin	As a gift to St. Paul's
Ronald and Janet Frank	In memory of Herman and Clara Frank In memory of William and Christian Strachan In memory of Shana Frank
Pat and Bill Garvey	In honor of Tom and Susie (Garvey) Gassel In honor of Karen Whitmore
Georgia Hunt	In memory of Bob Hunt
The Liebertz Family Bob, Sandi, Jon, Kim, Kayla, and Jordan Bob and Sandi Liebertz	In memory of Ginny Walls As a gift to St. Paul's
Beverly Lindley	In memory of William Pfaffman
Deborah and Venez Lyons	In memory of Thomas Lyons, Pauline Lyons, Shaun Lyons, Thomas Byard, and Wilma Byard

Judy McGregor and Harry McGregor	In memory of Harry and Isabelle McGregor
Allen and Chery Nicholas	In memory of their granddaughter, Haleigh Katherine Nicholas In memory of Eli Nicholas, father of Allen Nicholas In memory of Carol Nicholas, mother of Allen Nicholas In memory of Charles Miller, father of Chery Nicholas In memory of Bernice Kotrych, mother of Chery Nicholas In honor of their children, John and Carrie, Scott and Maria, and Mark and Katie In honor of their grandchildren, Jessica, Joey, Juliana, Brendan, Eli, and Jaxon
Don and Kathy Potter	In honor of Mardon and Carol Murphy In memory of Beatrice Dingess and Donald and Margaret Murphy In memory of Dorothea Ward and Olive Mae MacCauley
Barbara Riehl	In memory of Don Riehl
Janet Sandin	As a gift to St. Paul's
Bob and Wanda Seymour	In memory of their parents: Ann and Ken Seymour and Helen and Jim Hoyer In honor of their children: Jenn Penix and Bryan Casebere In honor of their grandchildren: Soraya, Sebastian, Sadie, Paige, and Finn
Linda Thompson	In memory of Pat and Milt Pollock
Joan Velis	In memory of her beautiful twin sister, Jean

The Board of Deacons thanks the donors for their generous support.

These donations were received as of December 17, 2020

# 145 What Child Is This

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?  
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.

Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
 Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
 Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.  
 Raise, raise the song on high. The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

This Victorian text gains scope and power by having the original second halves of stanzas two and three restored. They give a stark forward glimpse of what lies ahead for this "babe, the son of Mary!" The tune is much older, dating from Tudor England.

## O Lord, How Shall I Meet You 104

1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you a - right?  
 2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me;  
 3 You come, O Lord, with glad - ness, in mer - cy and good-will,

Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!  
 your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.  
 to bring an end to sad - ness and bid our fears be still.

O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, a lamp with - in my breast,  
 O love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace  
 In pa - tient ex - pec - ta - tion we live for that great day

to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.  
 in love, all loves ex - cel - ling, our lost and fal - len race.  
 when your re - newed cre - a - tion your glo - ry shall dis - play.

Though many Advent hymns address Christ with entreaty and invitation, this more contemplative text considers how an individual prepares for and responds to Christ's coming. It also brings together a recollection of the First Coming with an anticipation of the Second Coming.



## 360

## Christ Is Coming!

1 Christ is com - ing! Let cre - a - tion from its groans and  
 2 Earth can now but tell the sto - ry of your bit - ter  
 3 With that bless - ed hope be - fore us, flutes are tuned and  
 4 Long your ex - iles have been pin - ing for your prom - ised

la - bor cease; let the glo - rious proc - la - ma - tion  
 cross and pain; we shall yet be - hold your glo - ry,  
 harps are strung; let the might - y ad - vent cho - rus  
 rest and home, but in heaven - ly glo - ry shin - ing,

hope re - store and faith in - crease: Christ is com - ing!  
 Lord, when you re - turn to reign: Christ is com - ing!  
 on - ward roll from tongue to tongue: Christ is com - ing!  
 soon the ris - en Christ shall come. Christ is com - ing!

Christ is com - ing! Come, O bless - ed Prince of peace.  
 Christ is com - ing! Let each heart re - peat the strain.  
 Christ is com - ing! Let each heart re - peat the song.  
 Christ is com - ing! Joy - ful, shout the vic - tory psalm.

This hymn by a 19th-century Scottish pastor is specifically based on Revelation 1:7 and 22:20, with allusions to several other New Testament passages. Unlike medieval hymns that focused on judgment, this text understands the Second Coming as an occasion of triumph and joy.

## 128 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat-tle stall;  
 2 Flocks were sleep-ing; shep-herds keep-ing vig-il till the morn-ing new



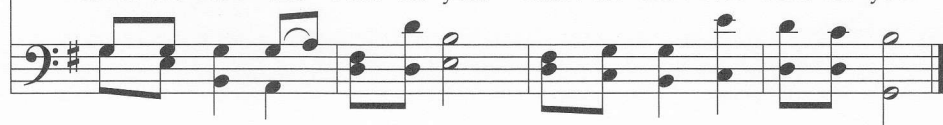
ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know-ing Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
 saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, ti - dings of the gos-pel true.



Swift are wing-ing an - gels sing - ing, no - els ring-ing, ti-dings bring-ing:  
 Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais-es voic-ing greet the mor - row:



Christ the babe is Lord of all! Christ the babe is Lord of all!  
 Christ the babe was born for you! Christ the babe was born for you!



The English text of this 13th- or 14th-century Polish carol does not try to tell a story but to offer verbal snapshots of the well-known Nativity narrative of Luke 2:6–20. The tune name quotes the opening of the Polish text and means “He lies in a cradle” or “In manger lying.”

## In the Bleak Midwinter

144

1 In the bleak mid-winter, frost-y wind made moan;  
 2 Our God, heaven can-not hold him, nor earth sus-tain;  
 3 An-gels and arch-an-gels may have gath-ered there;  
 4 What can I give him, poor as I am?

earth stood hard as i-ron, wa-ter like a stone;  
 heaven and earth shall flee a-way when he comes to reign:  
 cher-u-bim and ser-a-phim thronged the air;  
 If I were a shep-herd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall-en, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
 in the bleak mid-winter a sta-ble place suf-ficed  
 but his moth-er on-ly, in her maid-en bliss,  
 if I were a wise man, I would do my part;

in the bleak mid-winter, long a-go.  
 the Lord God in-car-nate, Je-sus Christ.  
 wor-shipped the be-lov-ed with a kiss.  
 yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

Though this text describes winter weather in England rather than in Palestine, the poet is using familiar surroundings as a means of making the Nativity more immediate and personal. The tune name honors a Gloucestershire village near the composer's birthplace in Cheltenham.

601

Amen

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The vocal line (treble clef) consists of four measures: the first two measures are chords, the third measure contains the notes A4, G4, and F4 beamed together, and the fourth measure is a whole note chord. The piano accompaniment (bass clef) follows a similar pattern: the first two measures are chords, the third measure contains the notes A3, G3, and F3 beamed together, and the fourth measure is a whole note chord. The lyrics 'A - men. A - men. A - men.' are placed below the vocal line, with hyphens indicating the syllables are spread across the notes.

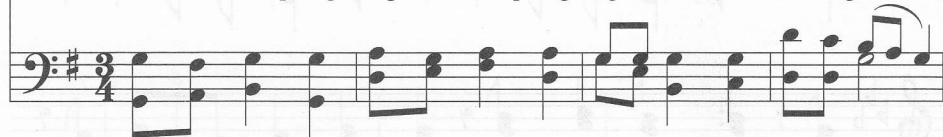
TEXT: Trad. liturgical text  
MUSIC: Anon. Danish

DANISH AMEN

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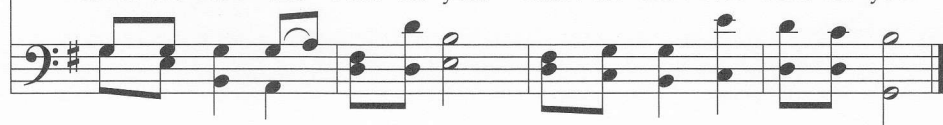
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