

*Growing Together through Faith, Love, and Fellowship.*

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**December 18, 2022**

*The asterisk (\*) indicates to please rise in body or spirit.*

## **Silent Prayer of Preparation**

*God of grace, your eternal Word took flesh among us when Mary placed her life in 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.*

## **Gathering Music**

### **The Gathering of God's People**

#### **Prelude - a time to prayerfully prepare oneself for worship**

"Veni Emmanuel"

arr. Gregg Sewell

#### **Welcome and Announcements**

#### **Introit**

"Come, Come Emmanuel" James Chepponis, 1995

#### **Lighting of the Advent Candles**

The Mack Family

**Leader:** Once God's plan was a mystery, hidden from our sight. Now God has disclosed what was kept secret for so very long; he has brought it out in the light. In the brighter light on this fourth Sunday in Advent, may we see more clearly the glory of God in Christ and sing of the steadfast love of the Lord forever.

**People:** "With my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations. I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens."

*(lighting of the candle)*

Leader: Light four candles, see them glow  
Brightly, so that all may know  
How four candles show the way  
Making our darkness bright as God's day.

**People: Our steadfast love is established forever; our faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.**

Leader: Let us pray:

**People: Dear God, your faithfulness has been great, leading us to this day of anticipation and celebration. May the glorious light of your steadfast love shine brightly in us and through us, that all may give you praise and glory. In the Savior's name we pray. Amen.**

**\*Hymn**

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

#39

## **The Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon**

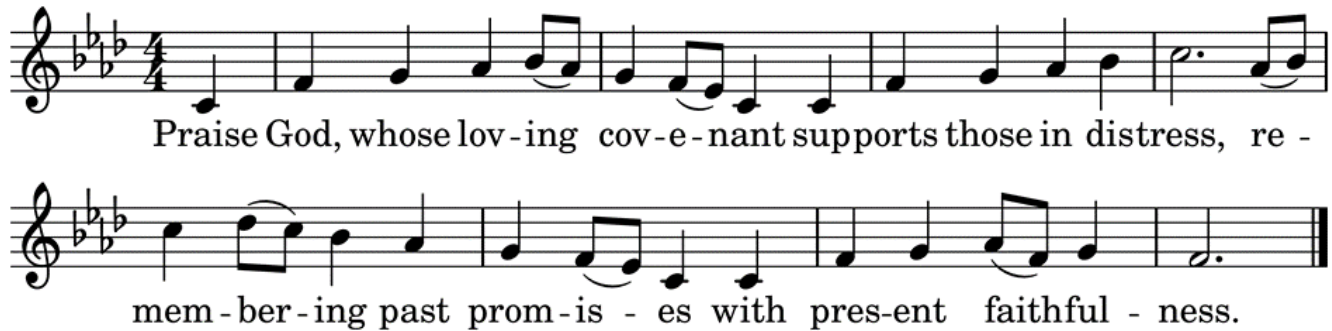
**\*Call to Confession**

**\*Prayer of Confession** (*read in unison*)

**We know the words, O God. We decry the commercialism of the season and bemoan the loss of the meaning of these days set aside to celebrate your Son's birth. We shake our heads and wonder at how secular this sacred time has become. We know the words, and yet we have become too-willing participants. We have spent more time shopping and decorating and preparing food than we have in praying our devotions. So, give us not the kind of Christmas that we have chosen, but rather give us the Christmas that you have chosen. Give us a glimpse of holiness, and let the hunger and longing well-up in us until we feel compelled to go in search of the One who is lying in a lowly manger, even the Savior of the world. Amen.**

(Silent prayer of confession)

**\*Assurance of Pardon**



Text: Miriam Therese Winter, 1979; rev. 1987  
Text © 1978, 1987 Medical Mission Sisters  
Used by Permission.

## **Ministry of the Word**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Children’s Sermon**

**First Scripture Reading**

Isaiah 7:10-16

**Choir Anthem**

“Come, Emmanuel”

Don Besig, 1989

Come, Emmanuel, we’re waiting for you,  
We long to know the story is true  
That God will send to earth a Son;  
And the whole wide world is waiting for you to come.  
Come, Emmanuel, the time is at hand  
To spread the news all over the land,  
That you will come to set us free,  
And the whole wide world is waiting for you to come.  
Some are waiting for a mighty king  
With crimson robes and golden rings  
To rule with a strong and powerful hand,  
But that is not the Father’s plan.  
Come, Emmanuel, the moment is near  
For all to see and all to hear  
That faith and hope are born anew,  
And the whole wide world is waiting for you to come.  
And you will come as a tiny child,  
Poor and humble, meek and mild,  
To live in faith and teach of love,  
To serve on earth and reign above!

## Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 1:18-25

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon

“Joseph, The Blessed Fool”

Rev. Désirée M. Youngblood

## Ordination and Installation

### Sentences of Scripture

Pastor: There are varieties of gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

**People: There are different ways of serving God, but it is the same Lord who is served.**

Pastor: God works through each person in a unique way, but it is God’s purpose that is accomplished.

**People: To each is given a gift of the Spirit to be used for the common good.**

Pastor: Together we are the body of Christ, and individually members of it.

### Statement on Ordination

#### \*Profession of Faith

Pastor: Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?

**People: I do.**

Pastor: Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and love?

**People: I do.**

Pastor: Will you be Christ’s faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love?

**People: I will, with God’s help.**

Pastor: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.  
Do you believe in God the Father?

**People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**People: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Pastor: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**People: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **\*Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Pastor: Gracious and eternal God ... glory and honor, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

### **Constitutional Questions**

### **Congregational Questions**

Clerk of Session: Do we, the members of the church, accept Cindy, Ken, Mary, Pam, Paul, and Ruth as ruling elders and deacons, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

**People: We do.**

Clerk of Session: Do we agree to pray for them, to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church?

**People: We do.**

## \*Prayer of Ordination and Installation

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## \*Declaration of Ordination and Installation

### \*Welcome

### The Response to the Word

### \*Hymn

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (vs. 1-3)

#88

## Prayers of the People and 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, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## Invitation to Offering

### \*Response

“Savior of the Nations, Come” (v. 4)

#102



Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, virgin's son, in - carnate Word!

To the ho - ly Trin - i - ty praise we sing e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: Attr. Ambrose of Milan, 4<sup>th</sup> cent.; German para. Martin Luther, 1523;  
English trans. stanza 4, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, 2006 © 2006 Augsburg Fortress  
Used by Permission.

## \*Prayer of Dedication

### The Sending of God’s People

\*Closing Hymn “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (vs. 4-7)

#88

### \*Charge and Blessing

## \*Congregational Response “Advent Song”



We're waiting for the day, we're waiting for the day, we're waiting for the  
day for the ba-by to be born. Jesus is that ba-by boy, born on Christmas  
Day. Je-sus is that ba-by boy born on Christmas Day. Yea!

Words and Music: Thomas & Joyce Lloyd

## \*Postlude

"People Look East"

arr. Mary McDonald

---

**Pastors:** Rev. Désirée Youngblood  
Dr. Mark A. Johnson  
Steve Watters

**Liturgist:** Paul Oswalt

**Music Director:** Thomas Lloyd  
**Organist:** Carol Welk  
**Acolyte:** Devin Griggs, Darren Cox