



**Ante-Communion
The Fourth Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 20, 2020**

THE WORD OF GOD

Officiant: Our King and Savior draws night.

People: O come let us adore him.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Officiant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES OF ADVENT

THE CANDLES OF ADVENT

Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of Love.

Our love is in God and in his son Jesus Christ. Like peace, love is a gift from God. It overtakes us and fills us when we remember what God has done and what he has promised to do. Jesus shows us God's perfect love. He is God's perfect love in human form. Those who believe in him and live in him, live in love. Love transforms and perfects all things. It never ends.

Light the first, second, third and fourth candles.

Let us pray:

O God of Love, Emmanuel, send your light into our hearts at this time. Help us to be ready for the time of Christ's appearing. Grant that we may so dwell in him that his perfect love fills our entire being. Make our worship a time in which we celebrate your love and are made ready to show that love to the whole world - both today - and forever more. *Amen.*

Choir Response: Advent is a time of love, of waiting for the light.
To lead us to the promised One to break the dark of night.
Light a candle, our Messiah will come.
Light a candle, for the promised One.

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Officiant: Let us pray.

COLLECT FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Officiant: Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

THE LESSONS

The First Lesson: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Reader: When the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, 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." 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: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? 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. 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?" 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; 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. 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, 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. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Psalm: Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

Reader: Your love, O LORD, for ever will I sing; *

People: from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

Reader: For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever; *

People: you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.

Reader: "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; *

People: I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

Reader: 'I will establish your line for ever, *

People: and preserve your throne for all generations.'"

Reader: You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people: *

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

Reader: I have found David my servant; *
People: with my holy oil have I anointed him.

Reader: My hand will hold him fast *
People: and my arm will make him strong.

Reader: No enemy shall deceive him, *
People: nor any wicked man bring him down.

Reader: I will crush his foes before him *
People: and strike down those who hate him.

Reader: My faithfulness and love shall be with him, *
People: and he shall be victorious through my Name.

Reader: I shall make his dominion extend *
People: from the Great Sea to the River.

Reader: He will say to me, 'You are my Father, *
People: my God, and the rock of my salvation.'

The Epistle: Romans 16:25-27

Reader: 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 forever! *Amen.*

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM: "O come, O come, Emmanuel" (1-3) Hymn 56

Susan Hollinger

Officiant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Luke 1:26-38

Officiant: 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, favored 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 favor 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 forever, 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.

Officiant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Laurence K. "Larry" Packard

NICENE CREED

Officiant and People: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. *Amen.*

THE PRAYERS

Prayers of the People, Form III

Reader: Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

People: That we all may be one.

Reader: Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

People: That your Name may be glorified by all people.

Reader: We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

People: That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

Reader: We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

People: That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Reader: Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

People: That our works may find favor in your sight.

Reader: Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

People: That they may be delivered from their distress.

Reader: Give to the departed eternal rest;

People: Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Reader: We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

People: May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Reader: Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

(Moment of Silence)

Prayers for those on Our Prayer List

Prayer for the Church Universal

Officiant and People: Gracious Father, we pray for thy holy catholic Church. Fill it with all truth, in all truth with all peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in any thing it is amiss, reform it. Where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in want, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of Jesus Christ thy Son our Savior. *Amen.*

Prayer for the Church Of Our Redeemer

Officiant and People: Lord Jesus, we pray that you will give us ears to hear, hearts to love, and wills devoted to serve; that in the days to come this congregation may be known, not for our glory, but for yours alone – a congregation of people who know the Lord; that this place may be an oasis, a place where people come to find out about you, where lives are straightened out and made whole, where people find the peace that passes understanding. Give us, we pray, a heart to desire these things above all else. We pray through Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

CONFESSON OF SIN

Officiant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Officiant and People: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. *Amen.*

Officiant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Officiant and People: 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, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

THE BLESSING

Officiant: Remember that life is short and we have too little time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us. So, be swift to love and make haste to be kind....and may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you now and always. *Amen.*

DISMISSAL

Officiant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

LET US PRAY

If you have a Prayer Request, please email your request to our Prayer Chair, Bonnie Flippo at msflip925@aol.com. You may also contact the office by email redeemeraldie@gmail.com or phone (703) 327-4060. Prayer Requests will be given to the Prayer Team so that they may pray for those in need. If you would like to include their name on our public prayer list, please let us know – only the name will appear on the public prayer list. If your request requires a more private nature, please contact Rev. Larry Packard by email l.packard@verizon.net or phone (703) 425-8315.

“For those whose concerns are known only to God”

All Those Afflicted by the Virus and
Those Who Care for Them

 Bonnie Flippo
 Martin, Kristin & Family
 Tom, Resha & Bennett
 Tom's Co-Workers
 Don & Chris
 Bob Stewart
 Alan White
 Fred & Ginny Warren
 Mary Murray
 TJ Hill
 Russell & Lula
 Bishop Susan Goff

 Kathy
 Candi & Taylor
 The Fairweather Family
 Tyler Gore
 Gwenivere Black
 Barbara Pavone
 Nettie Stevens
 Evan Hansen
 The Rollins Family
 Liam Ferguson
 The Pisciotta Family
 Church of Our Redeemer
 Church of Our Redeemer Vestry Members

Serving Our Country

 Amity Hess
 All First Responders
 All Front Line Workers
 All Hospitals and Emergency Rooms Workers

Our Children, Our Schools, Our Neighbors, The Unemployed

O Lord, we come to you on behalf of those who suffer want and anxiety from lack of work.

 Help us use our public and private wealth that they may find employment
 and receive just payment for their labor; this we pray in the name of Jesus Christ Our Lord. *Amen.*