



**December 20, 2020**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

(As the Prelude begins, you are invited to enter a time of prayer and meditation as we prepare to worship God together.)

**The Prelude**

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

15<sup>th</sup> century French Plainsong

**The Welcome**

**The Opening Prayer**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **In the advent seasons**

**when the past has fled, unasked, away  
and there is nothing left to do but wait,**

**God, shelter us.**

**Be our surrounding darkness;  
be the fertile soil from which hope springs  
in due time.**

**In uncertain times, help us to greet the dawn  
and labor on, love on,**

**in faith awaiting your purpose  
hid in you**

**waiting to be born in due time. Amen.**

**The Hymn No. 197**

*Ye Who Claim the Faith of Jesus*

JULION

1. Ye who claim the faith of Jesus,  
sing the wonders that were done  
when the love of God the Father  
over sin the victory won,  
when he made the Virgin Mary  
mother of his only Son.
2. Blessed were the chosen people  
out of whom the Lord did come;  
blessed was the land of promise  
fashioned for his earthly home;  
but more blessed far the mother,  
she who bore him in her womb.
3. Therefore let all faithful people  
sing the honor of her name;  
let the church, in her foreshadowed,  
part in her thanksgiving claim,  
what Christ's mother sang in gladness  
let Christ's people sing the same.
4. "Magnify, my soul, God's greatness  
in my Savior I rejoice;  
all the ages call me blessed,  
in his praise I lift my voice,  
he has cast down all the mighty,  
and the lowly are his choice"

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**The Lighting of the Advent Candle**

Leader: We light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Prince of Peace.  
May the visitation of your Holy Spirit, O God, make us ready  
for the coming of Jesus, our hope and joy.  
People: **O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

## The Old Testament Lesson

Luke 1:26-45

## The Sermon

*Visibilitation*

Rev. Drew Willson

## The Offertory Prayer

### The Offertory Anthem

*The Song of Mary*

Plainsong, *Tonus Peregrinus*

adapted by Bruce E. Ford; acc. by Alec Wyton

(The text of the solo is the same as the scripture passage at the end of this bulletin.)

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## The Prayers of the People

The Silent Prayer

The Pastoral Prayer

## The Lord's Prayer No. 895

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 that 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. Amen.

## The Hymn No. 198

*My Soul Gives Glory to My God*

MORNING SONG

1. My soul gives glory to my God.  
My heart pours out its praise.  
God lifted up my lowliness  
in many marvelous ways.
2. My God has done great things for me:  
Yes, holy is this name.  
All people will declare me blessed,  
and blessings they shall claim.
3. From age to age, to all who fear,  
such mercy love imparts,  
dispensing justice far and near,  
dismissing selfish hearts.

4. Love casts the mighty from their thrones,  
promotes the insecure,  
leaves hungry spirits satisfied;  
the rich seem suddenly poor.
5. Praise God, whose loving covenant  
supports those in distress,  
remembering past promises  
with present faithfulness.

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## The Benediction

### The Postlude

*My Soul Gives Glory to My God*

David N. Johnson

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***We thank these persons who helped us in worship this morning.***

Senior Pastor:	Rev. Matthew D. Bates
Minister to Young Adults:	Rev. Drew Willson
Director of Music:	Stanley M. Baker
Pianist:	Lee Covington
Singer:	Sam Cook

## Scripture

### Luke 1:26-45

#### The Birth of Jesus Foretold

<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.

## Mary Visits Elizabeth

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country,<sup>40</sup> where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.<sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit<sup>42</sup> and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.<sup>43</sup> And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me?<sup>44</sup> For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy.<sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

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