

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING BLESSING

CONFESSION.....

P: We confess our sins to our gracious God:

C: Lord, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and what we have failed to do. We have not loved you with our whole heart, and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, the child born in Bethlehem, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

WE RECEIVE FORGIVENESS

P: Our almighty God, in his mercy, sent his Son into our world, born a baby in Bethlehem, destined to die on the cross for us, and for his sake has forgiven us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I declare to you the forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen!

SONG OF PRAISE "Green Book" 39

Joy to the World

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive its King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing,*

*Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods,
Rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, Repeat the sounding joy,*

*No more let sin and sorrow grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, Far as the curse is found,*

*He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,*

And wonders, And wonders of his love,

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray: Gracious Lord God, something in us knows that all the religious rituals and all our pious efforts to do good works in the world could never put us right with you.....

C: Only your gracious love can justify us; only your will and desire to save us from ourselves can actually free us to be your people. We gratefully celebrate your coming among us, to wear our skin and walk in our shoes, and finally to go to the cross, so that the world would clearly see, how great is your love,

P: through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen!

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 7:10-17

The Lord gives a sign: the virgin shall conceive and bear a son

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria."

New Testament Lesson: Romans 1:1-7

Jesus is the one for whom God promised

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

CHORAL OFFERING **"Christmas is Coming"**

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 1:18-25

The way that Jesus is born shows that he is true man and true God

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame,

resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

*"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel"*

(which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON SONG "Green Book" 40 What Child is This?

*What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, The babe, the son of Mary!*

*Why lies he in such mean estate Where ox and ass are feeding!
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mary!*

*So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh: Come peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!*

SERMON "100 % Man, 100% God"

CONFESSING OUR FAITH

**We believe in God, the Father of our Lord Jesus,
Almighty Creator of heaven and earth,
The all powerful and all loving God.**

**We believe in Jesus the Christ,
The child of Bethlehem,
God of God from all eternity,
Born in the flesh at Christmastime,
Born to be our Savior,
Born to suffer and die for our sins,
Born to be raised to conquer death,
And give us hope of eternal life.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
The presence of God among us now,
The power of Christ within us,
Which makes us holy, renews our hearts,**

And strengthens us in faith.
Binding together all God's people
In bonds of faith and hope and love,
As we together keep the vigil
And reflect upon the mystery
Of God's birth on earth
This holy season.

OFFERING ARE GATHERED

The offerings gathered are a sign of our whole lived offered to God in humble gratitude for his greatest of all offerings, his Son born in human flesh and offered for our salvation.

OFFERING SONG ["Green Book 47 vs. 1 and 7 only](#) ["Let All Together Praise Our God"](#)

- 1) *Let all together praise our God
Before his glorious throne;
Today he opens heav'n again
To give us his own Son,
To give us his own son.*

- 2) *Your grace in lowliness revealed,
Lord Jesus, we adore,
And praise to God the Father yield
And Spirit evermore;
We praise you evermore.*

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

(After each petition the response is:

P: Lord in your mercy

C: Hear our prayer.)

CLOSING BLESSING SONG [\(sung to tune of "O Little Town"\)](#)

*Now may the good Lord bless and keep,
His love in us increase;
Lift up his face with shining grace
And grant eternal peace.
To Father, Son and Spirit,
Eternal one in three,
Be thanks and praise through all our days,
And to eternity!*

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

POST-SERVICE MUSIC