

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10:00 a.m.

December 20, 2020



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH

Welcome to the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth.

Wherever you are on your faith journey, we are delighted you are here and we welcome you into fellowship with all who seek the presence of Christ in their lives.

December 20, 2020

The Liturgy of the Word

Through the Season of Advent, please join us in beginning our worship services with prayer and contemplation, observing the incense that thickens the air, reminding us the Holy Spirit is with us. Observe the lit candles on the Advent wreath, helping us mark time as we anticipate Christ's birth anew in our hearts and lives. Join in the singing of the Taizé refrain that calls our attention to the ongoing need for justice and peace for all God's children.

The Fourth Advent Candle

The fourth Advent candle is a symbol of God's love for us and our love for one another. For God rejoices over us with gladness and renews us in divine love. God exults over us with singing and turns our shame to praise.

Opening Meditation

The Kingdom of God

The musical score is written for voice and piano in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of three systems of music. The first system has the lyrics: "The king - dom of God is jus - tice and peace and". The second system has the lyrics: "joy in the Ho - ly Spir - it. Come, Lord, and". The third system has the lyrics: "o - pen in us the gates of your king - dom." and ends with a double bar line and a fermata. Above the final measure of the third system, the words "Last time" are written above both the vocal and piano staves.

Text: Taizé Community
Tune: Taizé Community
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The Collect of the Day

Celebrant God be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

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 forever. **Amen.**

The Word of God

The People sit for

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

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.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 15 *(Spoken in unison)*

The Song of Mary Magnificat

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

**my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.**

**From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.**

**He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.**

**He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.**

**He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.**

**He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.**

**He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,**

**The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

The Second Lesson: Romans 16:25-27

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.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people. *People* **Thanks be to God.**

The People stand

The Gospel Procession *O come, O come Emmanuel (vss. 2, 5)* **HYMN 56**

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who ordered all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show and teach us her ways to go. Refrain

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, thou Key of David, come and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. *Refrain*

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (1:26-38)

People **Glory to you, O Christ.**

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.

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Homily

The Rev. Karen A. Calafat

The Nicene Creed

**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;
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified;
who 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 of the People

Presider With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray, saying "Christ, have mercy."

For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray. **Christ, have mercy.**

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray. **Christ, have mercy.**

For Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church; Scott, our bishop; and for all bishops, ministers and lay leaders, let us pray. **Christ, have mercy.**

For Donald, our President; Joe, our President-elect; Greg, our Governor; and Betsy, our Mayor; for those who serve in the military and all first responders, let us pray. **Christ, have mercy.**

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray. **Christ, have mercy.**

For healthcare providers and support staff worldwide and the patients in their care; for the aged and infirm, for refugees and victims; for the sick and the suffering; and for those we now name, _____, let us pray. **Christ, have mercy.**

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray. **Christ, have mercy.**

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray. **Christ, have mercy.**

In the communion of the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to God. **To thee, Almighty God.**

Celebrant: We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

**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.**

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of 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

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,
All **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 Peace

Celebrant The Peace of the Christ be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

The Blessing

May the God of hope, fill you.
May the God of joy, overflow you.
May the God of peace, pour you into the world.*

May God Almighty: Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer bless and keep you, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to seek justice for all God's children.
People **Thanks be to God**

Postlude

**Race and Prayer: Collected Voices, Many Dreams.* Malcolm Boyd and Chester Talton, editors. 2003.

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