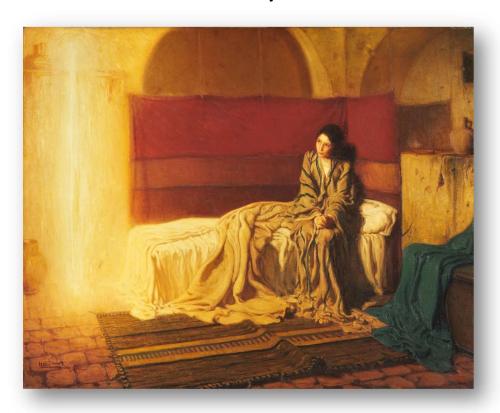
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610-346-8500 durhamlutheran.org

Rev. James Heckman, Bridge Pastor Cell: 267-664-3160

December 24, 2023 Fourth Sunday of Advent



Introduction to Worship

God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in.."

You can find the live stream at the following locations:

www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

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Prelude: "Christmas Prelude" - William Stickles

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness (Stand if you are able)

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, \pm one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation.

C: Amen.

P: God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

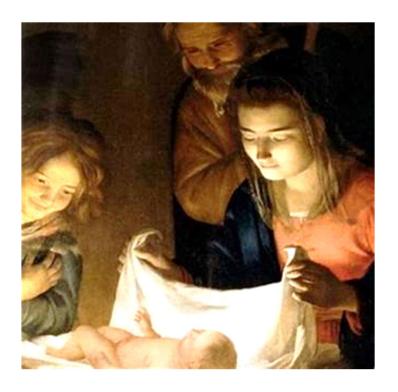
Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Everlasting God,

C: you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world.

P: Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of \oplus Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all.

C: Amen.



Opening Hymn: ELW 257

Once in Royal David's City

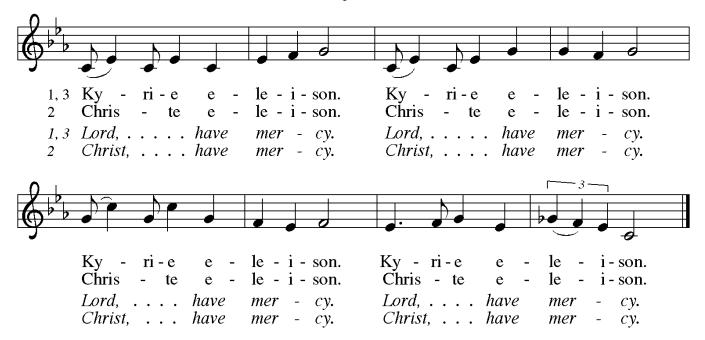


Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–1895 Music: IRBY, Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876

- P: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, The Love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C: And also with you.



Kyrie



Music: Dinah Reindorf, b. c. 1927

Music © 1987 Dinah Reindorf, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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Prayer of the Day

- L: The Lord be with you. C: And also with you.
- L: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading – 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Instead of David building a house (temple) for God, God promises to establish David's house (dynasty) forever. Centuries later, after the Babylonian exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the messiah, God's anointed.

L: A reading from second Samuel the seventh chapter.

¹Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the 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." ³Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I 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. ⁷Wherever 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?" 8Now 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; ⁹ 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. ¹⁰And 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, ¹¹ 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. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

L: The Word of the Lord. C: THANKS BE TO GOD.



Lighting the Fourth Candle of the Advent Wreath

Choir: Come, Child of Light - Lloyd Larsen

Place figures in Manger

Blessing Prayer

The Wagner family: Praise to you, O God, who lives with us, sharing our flesh and bones. As Mary waited and Joseph dreamed, so we wait and dream for you. Bless us and let your face shine upon us, more radiant than these candles, and more dear than all else we seek. Restore us when we fail to refuse the evil and choose the good, and banish all our fears. We pray in the name

of Emmanuel, your promised child and our Savior.

C: Amen.

Lighting of the 4th Candle

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

Paul closes his letter to the Romans by praising God because, in the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, God has revealed the promised, divine plan of salvation for all humanity. Paul proclaims this gospel of Christ in order to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations.

A reading from Romans, the sixteenth chapter:

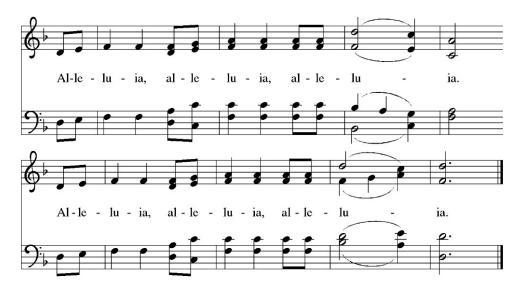
²⁵Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

L: The Word of the Lord. C: THANKS BE TO GOD.



(Please stand if you are able)

Gospel Acclamation



Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.

Music: "Alleluia 7," Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994, and the Taizé Community
Music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

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The Gospel - Luke 1:26-38

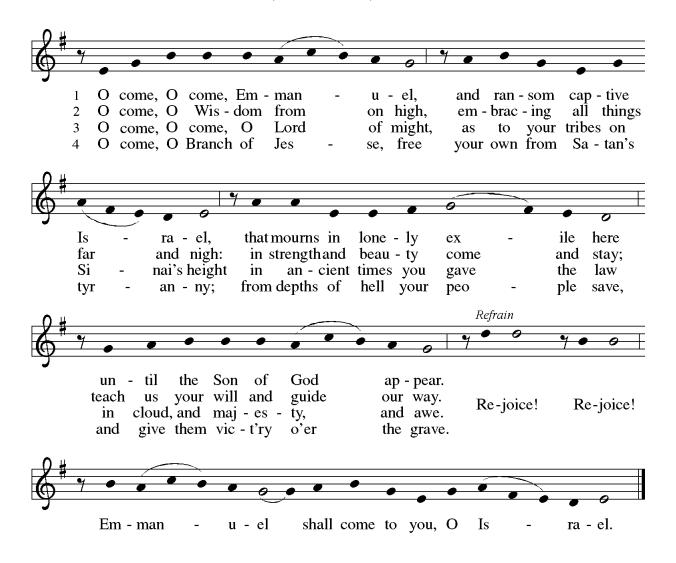
In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people from little known places. This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in this gospel.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He 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. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The 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. ³⁶And 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. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then 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.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you. O Christ.

Hymn of the Day: ELW 257 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



Text: Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. composite Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent. Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

A brief silence.

P: You promise mercy to Abraham and Sarah and their descendants forever. Bring your church into thoughtful, caring, and collaborative relationship with those of other faiths. Strengthen our shared values, that we work together in caring for our world. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: As fields and crops lie dormant, bless them with holy rest. Prepare them to thrive, that they provide abundant food in due season. Protect animals who hibernate and provide for all who scavenge for food in the lean season. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: You raise up the lowly and cast down the arrogant. Teach humility to all in positions of authority. Break down systems of oppression, especially systems that perpetuate inequity and exclusion. Do not allow wealth, power, or pride to become idols that obscure your call to justice. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Look with favor upon all who cry out to you. Accompany with tenderness all who are afraid or ill (especially). Rescue all who experience abuse or who live under threat of violence, especially refugees, immigrants, and asylum-seekers in search of a safe and stable home. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: You are pleased to make your home among us. Make our homecomings joyful as we gather with friends, families, and chosen families in celebration. Grant safety to all who travel. Sustain the work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services and other ministries that assist in setting up new homes. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

- P: Blessed are you for Mary and all your servants in every generation who lived according to your promise of mercy (especially those we name aloud or in our hearts). Strengthen us by their example until the revelation of your glory is made known. Merciful God,
- C: receive our prayer.
- P: Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.
- C: Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

- P: Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace. The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C: And also with you.

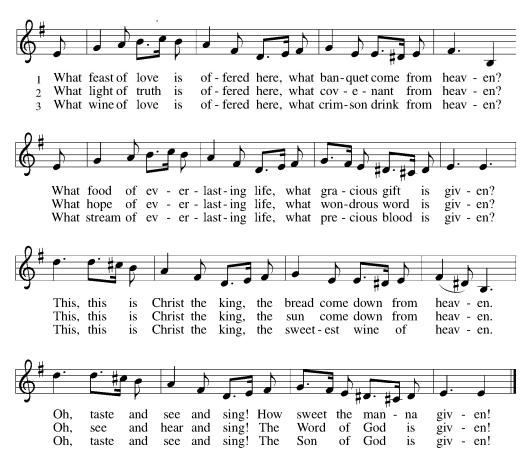
OFFERING

Choir Anthem: Come & Hear the Joyful Singing - Perry/Hopson

Presentation of the Gifts

ELW 487

What Feast of Love



Text: Delores Dufner, osB, b. 1939

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

Text © 1993 Delores Dufner OSB. Published by OCP Publications. All rights reserved.

Offering Prayer

P: God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

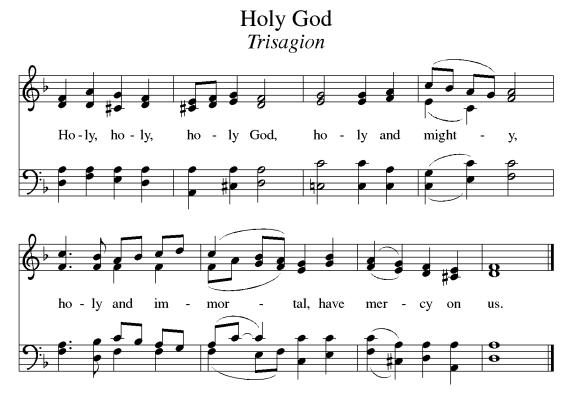
C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Music: Russian Orthodox traditional

Eucharistic Prayer (said by Pastor)

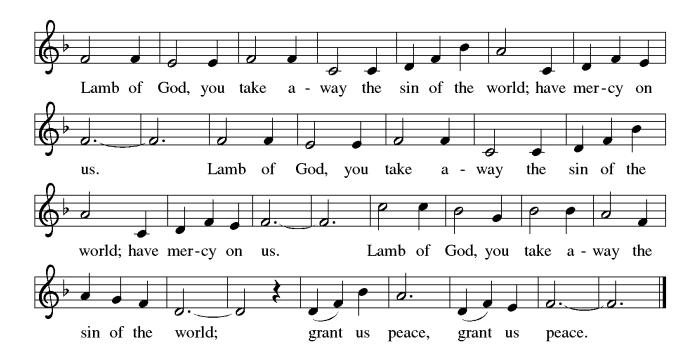
- P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:
- C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

P: In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together. Come, take your place at the table.



Lamb of God



Music: *Bread of Life*, Jeremy Young, b. 1948 Music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

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Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow ushers)

Hymn during Communion

O Little Town of Bethlehem



Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893 Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908

Prayer after Communion

P: Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

Announcements

BLESSING

P: The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit + remain upon you now and forever.

C: Amen.



SENDING SONG: ELW 267

Joy to the World



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748 Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Keep awake. C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: "Christmas Postlude" - William Stickles

<u>ANNOUNCEMENTS</u>									
	BIRTHDAYS		ANNIVERSARIES		BAPTISMS				
29	Leo Grzelkowski		Jayne & Jim Miller (55)		Matthew Mueller				
30	George Kreitz		Laura & Dave Helfrich (17)						
	THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES								
Sunday, December 24 Fourth Sunday in Advent Christmas Eve		10:00 AM 7:00 PM		Communion Sunday Worship The Nativity of our Lord Guest Preacher, Joseph of Nazareth					
Wednesday December 27				Office closed for the Holiday.					
& Thursday December 28				No Bible Study					
UPCOMING ACTIVITIES Sunday December 31 10:00 ANA Source of Leasens & Corole									
Sunday, December 31 First Sunday of Christmas		10:00 AM		Service of Lessons & Carols					
Wednesday, January 3		11:00 11:00	O AM - 11:00 PM O AM - 1:00 PM O AM - 11:15 PM O PM	Choir rehearsal Office Hours Care -A-Lot Visit Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim					
Thursday, January 4			0 AM - 1:00 PM PM - 3:00 PM						
Sunday, January 7 Baptism of our Lord		10:0	10:00 AM Communi		n Worship				
Monday, January 8		7:00	PM	Council Meeting					
Wednesday, January 10		11:00 11:00	O AM - 11:00 PM O AM - 1:00 PM O AM - 11:15 PM O PM PM	Choir rehearsal Office Hours Care -A-Lot Visit Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Palm Meeting @ St. Luke's					
			O AM - 1:00 PM PM - 3:00 PM	Office hours Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's					
Friday , January 12		10:00	O AM	WELCA met	ing and lunch				

Sunday, January 14 Second Sunday after Epiphany	10:00 AM	Communion Worship
Wednesday, January 17	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 11:00 AM - 11:15 PM 12:00 PM	Office Hours Care -A-Lot Visit Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim
Friday, January 19	9:00 AM 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM	WELCA Soup Supper Make Soup Sell Soup

The food basket is donated in honor of Clayton Helfrich's birthday from his mom, dad, brother, grandmother aunt, uncle, and cousins.



JANUARY OUTREACH - The January outreach envelope will go to the Red Cross.





For Healing of those in our Congregation:

Joanne & David Antoni; Brian Ashmore; Esther Crouse; Frank Erceg; Kenneth Hager; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Cheryl Mesko; Bethany Michl; Wes Simmons; Ed Xander; Joanne and Bobby Ziegenfuss.

Lynn Bailey; Ron & Kathy Ballek; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Deb Carmichael; Peggy Coleman; Stephanie Courtney; Nancy Edelen; Diane Ellington; Leon Errico; Fred Foerster; Gerry Foran; Gabriella

Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Cindy Gilligan; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Sue Kiry; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Sue Odor; Cindy Oswald; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Jean Pratt; Connie Rugen; Paul Sauter; Debbie Schultz; David Sebring; Shawn Stadt; Pat Stangil; Kay Stokes; Donna Storm; Russ Trauger; Kelly Walsh; Regina Ward; Henry Wong and Scotty Yurconis.

For those who are Homebound:

Cleo & Ken Eck; Norma Fox; Phyllis Lanshe; Frank Mammana; Jayne Miller; and Silas Rodenbach.

For families and friends grieving the loss of:

Rev. Dennis Durasoff

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at:

PrayerChain@durhamlutheran.org

NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR

Helping in Worship

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman		
Choir Director / Organist	Carolyn Williams		
Altar Guild	Barb Naska, Mark Harwick,		
	Suzanne Mauer		
Greeter(s)	Karen Beerer		
Acolyte	Colton Wagner		
Lector	Karen Beerer		
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick		
Council Counting Team	Bea von Watzdorf & Mark Harwick		
Administration & Technology	Ken Anderson		
Custodian	Dianna Streletz		