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## ADVENT 4

DECEMBER 18, 2022

### 8:00 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Book of Common Prayer – beginning page 67

### 10:00 AM THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

Welcome, Announcements & Territorial Acknowledgement

*We come to silence at the sound of the gong.*

*To request specific prayers during the service, please fill out a prayer card and place it in the prayer basket in the narthex.*

Opening Hymn: CP#114 Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending

*Presider*      The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

*All*            **And also with you.**

*Children gather at the Advent wreath.*

*We light the candles of hope, peace and joy.*

Reader 1: We are people of love.

Reader 2: God has loved us so much that God has chosen to come as Immanuel, the God who is with us.

People: **We are free to love others, because God first loved us.**

Reader 1: The fourth candle of Advent invites us to reflect God's love in our lives.

Reader 2: We light this candle so that we can see who we are called to love today.

*We light the candle of love.*

Reader 1: Let us pray:

People: **Holy One, help us to know we are deeply loved and to share that same unconditional love with others. May our lives reflect the warmth and wonder of this flame. Make your church a place of love and acceptance in our community. Amen.**

Wreath - Lighting Acclamation: *Lead Us to Your Light*



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Collect of the Day

*Presider* God of all hope and joy,  
*All* **open our hearts in welcome,  
so that your Son Jesus Christ at his coming  
may find in us a dwelling prepared for him;  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

**THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD - "The Story of God's Promise"**

Introduction

Genesis 1:26-31a - "The Promise of Creation"

Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.' So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air

and over every living thing that moves upon the earth. 'God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food. 'And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.

Hymn: This Is My Father's World (Babcock/Sheppard)

This is my Father's world  
And to my list'ning ears  
All nature sings and 'round me rings  
The music of the spheres  
This is my Father's world  
I rest me in the thought  
Of rocks and trees and skies and seas  
His hand the wonders wrought

This is my Fathers' world  
The birds, their carols raise  
The morning light, the lily white  
Declare their Maker's praise  
This is my Fathers' world  
He shines in all that's fair  
In the rustling grass, I hear Him pass  
He speaks to me everywhere

This is my Fathers' world  
O let me ne'er forget  
That though the wrong seems oft so strong  
God is the ruler yet  
This is my Fathers' world  
The battle is not done  
Jesus who died shall be satisfied  
And earth and heav'n be one  
And earth and heav'n be one.

Responsory: Things went well for a while,  
*All:* **but eventually troubles came.**  
God sent a flood that destroyed too much,  
so God decided "never again!"  
*All:* **God made a new promise.**

Genesis 9:8-17 - "The Promise of Life - Noah"

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth. 'God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth. 'God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'

Choral Anthem: Still (R. Morgan)

Responsory: Things went well for a while,  
*All:* **but eventually troubles came.**  
The people were too scattered, not acting as a  
community, so God chose to start with one family.  
*All:* **God made a new promise.**

Genesis 12:1-4a, 15:1-6, 17:1-8 - "The Promise of Nationhood - Abraham"

Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one

who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.' So Abram went, as the Lord had told him...

After [many] things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great. 'But Abram said, 'O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus? 'And Abram said, 'You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir. 'But the word of the Lord came to him, 'This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir. 'He brought him outside and said, 'Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them. 'Then he said to him, 'So shall your descendants be. 'And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous. 'Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. And I will give to you, and to your offspring after you, the land where you are now an alien, all the land of Canaan, for a perpetual holding; and I will be their God.'

Hymn: #468 *To Abraham and Sarah*

Responsory: Things went well for a while,  
All: **but eventually troubles came.**

The people became enslaved,  
until liberation came with a wilderness journey and  
God's specific instruction.

All: **God made a new promise.**

## Deuteronomy 30:15-20 - "The Promise of Land and Life - Moses"

See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

Trio: I Dreamed of Rain (J. Garrett)

Responsory: Things went well for a while,

All: **but eventually troubles came.**

The people wanted a king, to be like other nations,

All: so **God made a new promise.**

## 2 Samuel 7: 4-17 - "The Promise of Everlasting Love - David"

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. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. When he commits iniquity, I will punish him with a rod such as mortals use, with blows inflicted by human beings. But I will not take my steadfast love from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever. In accordance with all these words and with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

Hymn: *This Ancient Love* (C. Dade)

Long before the night was born from darkness,  
long before the dawn rolled unsteady from fire,  
long before she wrapped her scarlet arm around the hills,  
there was a love, this ancient love was born.

Long before the grass spotted green the bare hillside,  
long before a wing unfolded to wind,  
long before she wrapped her long blue arm around the sea  
there was a love, this ancient love was born.

Long before a chain was forged from the hillside,  
long before a voice uttered freedom's cry,  
long before she wrapped her bleeding arms around a child  
there was a love, this ancient love was born.

Long before the name of a God was spoken,  
long before a cross was nailed from a tree  
long before she laid her arm of colours 'cross the sky  
there was a love, this ancient love was born.

Wakeful our nights, slumbers our morning,  
stubborn the grass sowing green wounded hills,  
as we wrap our healing arms to hold what her arms held  
this ancient love, this aching love rolls on.

Responsory: Things went well for a while,

**All: but eventually troubles came.**

The worst troubles of all came with Jerusalem  
destroyed and the people exiled to a foreign land.  
But God didn't forget the people.

**All: God made a new promise.**

Isaiah 40:1-11 - "The Promise of Renewal"

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to  
Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty  
is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make  
straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted  
up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall  
become level, and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it  
together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. '

A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass,  
their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the  
flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the  
people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of  
our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion,  
herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem,  
herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah,  
'Here is your God!' See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm  
rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He  
will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Hymn: #520 The King of Love My Shepherd Is (vv 1-4)



Responsory: Things went well for a while,  
*All:* **but eventually troubles came.**  
Over time in the re-built Jerusalem,  
the people forgot God's teaching,  
God's mercy and God's promises,  
*All:* so **God made a new promise.**

Luke 1:26-38 - "The Promise of Salvation"

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, favoured 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 favour 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 for ever, 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.

Solo with Choir: *Ave Maria* (Bach/Gounod)

The Prayers of the People

"A Penitential Act" - *see insert*

The Peace

*Presider* May the God of peace make you completely holy,  
ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you:  
**All And also with you.**

Offertory Hymn: CP#117 Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming

## **WE SHARE THE SACRED MEAL**

*Presider* God of abundance,  
*All* **we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation,  
and with them our very lives.  
Teach us patience and hope  
as we care for all those in need  
until the coming of your Son,  
our Saviour and Lord. Amen.**

-Evangelical Lutheran Worship (2006) alt.

## Eucharistic Prayer: Island Liturgy – Eucharistic Prayer “C”

*Presider* The Lord is here.  
*All* **God’s Spirit is with us.**  
*Presider* Lift up your hearts.  
*All* **We lift them to the Lord.**  
*Presider* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*All* **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**  
*Presider* It is indeed right that we should praise you,  
God of love, our source and our fulfillment,  
for you create all things  
and in you we live and move and have our being.  
Your wonder is manifest in land and sea and sky.  
  
You made us in your image.  
And even though we turn from you,  
again and again you call us to yourself,  
and in every age, promise liberation.  
  
As a mother gathers her children,  
you embraced a people as your own  
to nurture them in the way of compassionate love.  
You sent Jesus among us,  
incarnate of the Holy Spirit and born of Mary.  
Jesus revealed your love for all Creation,  
and showed us the way of reconciliation.

Having lived among us — Jesus suffered the cross,  
died, and in rising again  
became the firstborn of the renewed family.

Your Holy Spirit descended  
and continues to give life to your church.  
And so we gather around your table,  
with all the saints  
and with all Creation  
we sing the hymn of your unending love:

*All*

*(Please see insert)*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.**

*Presider*

To you be glory, almighty God,  
because on the night before he died,  
Jesus took bread, when he had given thanks,  
he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said:  
Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you:  
do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup;  
when he had given thanks,  
he gave it to them and said: drink this all of you.  
This is my blood of the new covenant,  
poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins;  
do this to remember me.

*Presider*

*All*

Great is the mystery of faith.  
**Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again.**

*Presider*

Recalling Christ's death and resurrection,  
we ask you to accept  
this, our sacrifice of praise.  
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,  
and on these gifts  
that we may be fed with the body and blood of your Son.

Unite us in Christ and give us your love  
 that we might be strengthened to do your work  
 as your body in the world.  
 Through Christ our Redeemer,  
 in the power of the Spirit,  
 all praise and glory be yours, Creator God,  
 now and for ever.

*All*      **Amen.**

### The Lord's Prayer (Sung) - (*Music*)

#### The Lord's Prayer

Our Fa-ther, in hea-ven, hal-low-ed be yourname, your king-dom come, your will be done on earth as in

9  
 hea-ven. Give us to-day our dai-ly bread. For- give - us our sins as we for-give those who sin a-gainst us.---

17  
 — Save us from the time of trial and de - li - ver us from e - vil, For the

22  
 king-dom, the pow'r and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er.---

### The Breaking of the Bread

*Presider*      God of promise, you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.

*All*              **Happy are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.**

*Presider*      The gifts of God for the People of God.

*All*              **Thanks be to God.**

*All are welcome to join in the sacred feast of Holy Communion. Please come forward to receive the sacrament in front of the altar. You may also indicate your desire to receive a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. All are invited to draw near the table of the Lord.*

Communion Music:           Lamb of God – see *insert*  
                                      Take And Eat This Bread  
                                      CP#113 Come O Lord And Set Us Free

Prayer after Communion:

*Presider*     God for whom we wait,  
*All*            **in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day**  
                  **when the hungry will be fed with good things.**  
                  **Send us forth to make known your deeds**  
                  **and to proclaim the greatness of your name,**  
                  **through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.**

*Presider*     Glory to God,  
*All*            **whose power, working in us,**  
                  **can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.**  
                  **Glory to God from generation to generation,**  
                  **in the Church and in Christ Jesus,**  
                  **for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD**

Blessing

*Presider*     Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing of God: Creating, Redeeming and Sustaining, be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn: CP#109 When The King Shall Come Again

Dismissal

*Presider*     As we await our coming Saviour, go in the peace of Christ.

*All*            **Thanks be to God.**



The flowers are given by Marilyn Pattison to the Glory of God and  
in memory of Bill



***The Memorial Poinsettias are given to  
the Glory of God by:***

Lillian Bailey  
Jennifer Bradbury  
Terry & Joy Carroll  
Ed & Joan Collis  
Pat Firth

Beth Gvora  
Larry & Gillian Hanlon

Margaret Hood  
Alice Kubek & Mike Bassett

Helen Lindholm  
Margaret Martin

Jane Miller  
Colin & Moira

Pamela & Graham Morgan

Jeanette Muzio

John Oldale  
Hazel Robinson

Rosamund Soares  
Margaret Smart  
Sharron Spriggs  
Carmen Stansberry  
Art & Linda Walker

***In Loving Memory of:***

Wallace Bailey  
Mum & Dad

Family & friends  
Iris Jeune  
Anne Troutmam  
Jennifer  
Kathleen Levy  
Bill, Eileen & Bernard Hanlon  
John & Eileen Marrett  
Departed loved ones  
Dianne Winsby  
Jim & Dorothy Genge  
Louis Lindholm  
Vince Martin  
Helen McMillan  
Rowlan Miller  
Barbara Millar  
Our grandparents  
Freda & Stanley Morgan  
Janet & Clifford Spiers  
Michael & Betty Saunders  
Veronica Druce  
Mums & Dads  
Joseph & Amy Banks  
Veronica Druce  
My parents: Douglas & Peggy Crisp  
Jean Allen  
Dernutt, Doris & Patrick Crofton  
Family & friends who have passed  
Susanne

8:00 am

Presider	The Rev. Christine Conkin
Greeter	Leigh Bradfield
Readers	Marilyn Pattison, Helen Malcolm, Jane Turpie, Margaret Hood, Helen Lindholm, Linda Sproule-Jones
Prayers	Andrew Armitage
Administrant	Leslie Glazier
Liturgical Assistant	John Oldale

10:00 am

Presider	The Rev. Christine Conkin
Music Director	Marlon Narciso
Trio	Signi Murgatroyd, Jayne Postuk and Moira Millar
Solo	Julia Morgan
Tech Assistant	Caitlin Dean
Liturgical Assistant	Bruce Winter
Greeters	Art Walker, Colin Millar
Flowers	Sandra Moore
Readers	Nicola LaMorte, Sandra Moore, Colin Millar, Barbara Colebrook Peace, Beth Gvora, John Sager
Gospel	Bruce Winter
Administrants	Mike Bassett, John Sager
Prayers	Barbara Colebrook-Peace
Chancel Guild	Darlene Fisher, Margaret Smart
Counters	Cedric Trueman, Alice Kubek (Supervisor)

Music License and Agreements: One License A712703

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This building is equipped with a Hearing Loop. If you use hearing aids or a cochlear, please switch to the T-position to better enjoy today's service.