

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 18, 2022
9:30 a.m.



GATHERING

Prelude (a time for silent meditation)

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.

Blessed be God's name forever.

Amen.

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.

Let us confront our sins,
and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of new beginnings,

we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.

We have strayed from your paths.

We prepare for war instead of peace.

We dishonor one another and your creation.

**Purify us with your refining fire
and set us again on your way of love,
that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,
and welcome your coming among us.**

Amen.

People of God,
a new thing is growing in our midst,
a tender branch,
a living sign.

By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.

You have put on ☩ Christ,
and your sins have been washed away.

Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

Amen.

Gathering Song: “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”

God rest ye merry gentlemen
Let nothing you dismay
Remember Christ our Savior
Was born on Christmas Day
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray
Oh tidings of comfort and joy
Comfort and joy
Oh tidings of comfort and joy

In Bethlehem, in Israel
This blessed Babe was born
And laid within a manger
Upon this blessed morn
To which His Mother Mary
Did nothing take in scorn
Oh tidings of comfort and joy
Comfort and joy
Oh tidings of comfort and joy

Fear not then, said the Angel
Let nothing you affright
This day is born a Savior
Of a pure Virgin bright
To free all those who trust in Him
From Satan's power and might
Oh tidings of comfort and joy
Comfort and joy
Oh tidings of comfort and joy

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Blessing of the Advent Wreath and Lighting of the Advent Candle: Advent 4

Blessed are you, God of hosts, for you promised to send a son, Emmanuel, who brought your presence among us; and you promise through your Son Jesus to save us from our sin.

As we light these candles, turn again to us in mercy; strengthen our faith in the word spoken by your prophets; restore us and give us life that we may be saved.

O house of David, come,
**let us rejoice, for the Son of God, Emmanuel,
comes to be with us. Amen.**
Light the fourth candle.

“Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel”

4. Oh, come, blest Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by your advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain*

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray . . . Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

Children's Sermon

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-16

¹⁰The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹²But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. ¹³Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

²In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.

³Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁴O LORD God of hosts,

how long will your anger fume when your people pray?

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

⁶You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

¹⁷Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself.

¹⁸And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.

¹⁹Restore us, O LORD! God of hosts;

let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

¹Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 1st Chapter

C: Glory to You, O Lord

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us."²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: "Lo, How a Rose Is Growing" LBW 58

1	Lo, how a rose is growing, a bloom of finest grace; the prophets had foretold it: a branch of Jesse's race would bear one perfect flow'r here in the cold of winter and darkest midnight hour.	3	The shepherds heard the story the angels sang that night: how Christ was born of Mary; he was the Son of light. To Bethlehem they ran to find him in the manger as angel heralds sang.
2	The rose of which I'm singing, Isaiah had foretold. He came to us through Mary, who sheltered him from cold. Through God's eternal will this child to us was given at midnight calm and still.	4	This flow'r, so small and tender, with fragrance fills the air; his brightness ends the darkness that kept the earth in fear. True God and yet true man, he came to save his people from earth's dark night of sin.

Apostle's Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.*

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the
dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

Prayers of the Church

*(Each petition ends with...God in your mercy, the congregation responds:
hear our prayer.*

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you

The Offering Please leave your offering on our website: https://www.eservicepayments.com/cgi-bin/Vanco_ver3.vps?appver3=Dc8dzPGn4-LCajFevTkh9MYPCLmH2sG-jdxWYJMFgw_IQfxkD4hBw8W0Q6UZLveQvLkSxosar2o939JWiAad87o7zqy-JU_UuLu19bUbJx2MmPFcXvWUuz6A7FDgkhUKk0PpduXvnt8gXUeZjQYbn9G3frHWC59Y_VCHQ6_VCoE=&ver=3

The Offertory *(Please stand as you are able.)*

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray... Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

SACRAMENT

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.
Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;

to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

**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.

Distribution

The body of Christ, given to you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray. . . Faithful God,
in this meal you have remembered your mercy,
bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ.
As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled,
sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery.
Guide us toward your promised future,
coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor
and + give you peace. **Amen.**

Sending Song: "Manger Throne"

What kind of King would leave His throne
In Heaven to make this earth His home?
While men seek fame and great renown
In lowliness our King comes down

Jesus, Jesus, precious one
How we thank You that You've come
Jesus, Jesus, precious one
A manger throne for God's own son

You left the sound of angels' praise
To come for men with unkind ways
And by this Baby's helplessness
The power of nations is laid to rest

Jesus, Jesus, precious one
How we thank You that You've come
Jesus, Jesus, precious one
A manger throne for God's own son

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is near.
Thanks be to God.

OUR MISSION – FAITHFUL IN THE WORD

- + To *gather* as God’s people and nurture one another
- + To *know* the Word of God
- + To *grow* in faith, love, and service
- + To *go* into the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ



SERVING OUR LORD IN WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: The Rev. Matthew E Ollikainen
Music/Choir Director Mr. Michael Dettra
Worship Assistant John Flint

GUEST REGISTER

If you are visiting with us today, please sign our Guest Book in the narthex.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar Flowers are presented by Cindy Frey in honor of her son, Drew’s birthday and by Victoria Flint in honor of birthday.

NUEVA CREACIÓN MISSION SUPPORT

Support of Nueva Creación Lutheran Church in Philadelphia for this week is presented to the Glory of God.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE: SUNDAY, December 11

8:00 a.m. 13 9:30 a.m. 24 Sunday School 4 **Total 41**

SOCIAL MINISTRY



GIFT CARDS FOR SHARING: As we have done the last two years we are collecting gift cards from local stores, i.e. Giant, Walmart, Aldi and ShopRite they will be distributed to clients at the Warminster Food Bank during the month of December. The response from the congregation the last 2 years has been generous! We hope for the same result again this year.

Look for the red tin of envelopes on the offering table. If you are donating more than one gift card, please take an envelope for each card.

If you would like to send in a donation, please use the church street address which is 45 Worthington Mill Road, Richboro, PA 18954, you can make the check payable to the Warminster Food Bank and it will be dropped off with the gift cards. It is a difficult year for many. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

FOOD DONATIONS: When you have food that you or your friends would like to donate and the church is not open, just drive up to the main entrance and leave your donation inside the bench outside the door. You may still bring food into the building during church and office hours. For suggestions on which items are requested each week, go to: www.warminsterfoodbank.org.

Thank-you for your continued support for our neighbors in need! Nancy Sclight/Social Ministry.

OFFICE HOURS IN DECEMBER

Pastor Matt will be out of the office from Monday, December 26, returning Tuesday, January 10. Information regarding emergency pastoral coverage will be supplied at a later date.

FLOWER CHART & MISSION SUPPORT FOR 2021

The sign-up sheets for Altar Flower and Mission Support dedications for 2023 are in the narthex. The cost to dedicate one bouquet is \$25.00. One week of Mission support is \$25.00. There are many openings available on the Flower and Mission Support charts.



GIVE US YOUR SMILE!

Do you find that you have gotten used to ordering online and prefer that over endless shopping around for sales? If so, consider using Smile.Amazon.com for your shopping and shipping needs. This acts the same as an Amazon account, but Amazon Smile Foundation will donate .5% of your purchases to the charity of your choice. Simply indicate Advent Lutheran Church, Richboro as your charity and the church will benefit. No cost is added to you. Advent has received donations of 516.24 as of June, 2022 from the Amazon Smile Foundation since 2016, when we signed up. If you need help setting up your account, call or text me (Gail Oines) at 215-534-8218.

THIS WEEK AT ADVENT

DECEMBER 18

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Holy Communion
- 9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study
- 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Holy Communion
Sunday School age 4 - grade 6
- 10:45 a.m. Fellowship Time: Gail Oines

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19

- 7:30 p.m. A.A. Open Meeting

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

- 7:30 p.m. A.A. Step Meeting



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

- 7:00 p.m. Family Candle Light Service Lessons & Carols
with Holy Communion
- 9:00 p.m. Candlelight Service with Holy Communion

Online Christmas Eve Service 7:00 p.m.

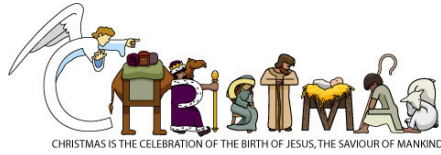
Meeting ID: 893 2031 5353 Pass code: 434888

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89320315353?pwd=UVZXdzNGQ1doUFJyZzlpUnRMVmJMdz09>

Online Christmas Eve Service 9:00 p.m.

Meeting ID: 812 5579 8308 Pass code: 814888

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81255798308?pwd=ekZxay9wSWWhEN3dFMzZWWFJQZG9kdz09>



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion Worship Service

Online Christmas Day Service 9:00 a.m.

Meeting ID: 835 7312 4650 Pass code: 385899

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83573124650?pwd=anlUVzkxaWpGT3RxSGhuMkM4elpRQT09>