

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT
DECEMBER 24, 2023
9:00 A.M.**



We Gather in Jesus' Name

Prelude (a time for silent meditation)

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who opens the heavens
and draws near to us with salvation.

Amen.

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.

Everlasting God,

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.

Amen.

Hear these words of assurance:

God clothes you with garments of salvation
and covers you with robes of righteousness.

In the tender compassion of † Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.

God's covenant is eternal,
and God's blessing rests upon us all.

Amen.

Gathering Song: “Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn” WOV #633

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn,
for angels herald its dawning.
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born,
behold! the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor,
to bring all hearts together,
he opens wide the heav'nly door
and lives now inside us forever. | 3 In darkest night his coming shall be,
when all the world is despairing,
as morning light so quiet and free,
so warm and gentle and caring.
Then shall the mute break forth in song,
the lame shall leap in wonder,
the weak be raised above the strong,
and weapons be broken asunder. |
| 2 To us, to all in sorrow and fear,
Emmanuel comes a-singing,
his humble song is quiet and near,
yet fills the earth with its ringing;
music to heal the broken soul
and hymns of lovingkindness,
the thunder of his anthems roll
to shatter all hatred and blindness. | 4 Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,
though dark the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light,
be strong and loving and fearless.
Love be our song and love our prayer
and love our endless story;
may God fill ev'ry day we share
and bring us at last into glory. |

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.

Lighting of the Advent Candle: Advent 4

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Praise to you, O God, who lives with us,
sharing our flesh and bones.
As Mary waited and Joseph dreamed,
so we dream and wait 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.

Amen.

Light the third 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 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.

Amen.

Readings for The Fourth Sunday of Advent

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

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; ⁹and 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, ¹¹from 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.

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Luke 1:46b-55

¹Your love, O LORD, forever will I sing;
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

²**For I am persuaded that your steadfast love is established forever;
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.**

³“I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

⁴**‘I will establish your | line forever,
and preserve your throne for all generations.’”**

¹⁹You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people:

“I have set the crown upon a warrior and have exalted one chosen out of the people.

²⁰**I have found David my servant;
with my holy oil have I anointed him.**

²¹My hand will hold him fast
and my arm will make him strong.

²²**No enemy shall deceive him,
nor shall the wicked bring him down.**

²³I will crush his foes before him
and strike down those who hate him.

²⁴**My faithfulness and steadfast love are with him,
and he shall be victorious through my name.**

²⁵I will set his hand on the sea,
and his right hand on the rivers.

²⁶**He will say to me, ‘You are my father,
my God, and the rock of my salvation.’**

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

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.

Word of God, Word of Life
Thanks be to God

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

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

C: Glory to You, O Lord

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: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Song of Praise: "Once in Royal David City"

Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her Baby
In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little Child.

He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor, and mean, and lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through His own redeeming love;
For that Child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heaven above,
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.

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 prayer ends with ...*Merciful God, the congregation responds: **receive 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-LCajFevTkh9MYPCImH2sG-jdxWYJMFGW_IQfxkD4hBw8WoQ6UZLveQvLkSxosar2o939JWiAad87o7zqy-JU_UuLu19bUbJx2MmPFcXvWIUz6A7FDgkhUKkoPpduXvnt8gXUeZjQYbn9G3frHWC59Y_VCHQ6_VCoE=&ver=3

The Offertory

Choir Anthem: "Come, Lord, Jesus"

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray... **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.
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... 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.
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: "Go Tell it on the Mountain"

Refrain

- Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!
- 1 While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. *Refrain*
- 2 The shepherds feared and trembled
when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*
- 3 Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*


Dismissal

Beloved of God,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

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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 Director	Michael Dettra
Worship Assistant	Jennifer McQuiggan



ALTAR FLOWERS - POINSETTIAS

The poinsettias displayed on the steps of the altar are those ordered by members of the congregation. The dedication list is on a separate sheet in the bulletin.

Poinsettias may be picked up any time after the 7:30 p.m. service on Christmas Eve.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Sunday, December 17, 8:00 am 21 9:30 am 27 SS 5 **TOTAL 53**



SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE IN DECEMBER

On Christmas Eve, **December 24**, and New Year's Eve, **December 31**, there will be **no Sunday School class**. Class will resume on **January 7**.

PASTOR MATT'S END OF DECEMBER SCHEDULE

Pastor Matt will be out of the office from Tuesday, December 26, and will return Wednesday, January 3. Pastor Bo Banister will be providing emergency pastoral coverage for Pastor Matt while he is away. Pastor Banister can be reached at 765-426-0500.

CHURCH OFFICE SCHEDULE FOR END OF DECEMBER

The church office will not be attended during the week of Tuesday, December 26, and will reopen on Wednesday, January 3.

INSTALLATION OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS AND RECOGNITION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS FINISHING TERMS – SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 9:30 SERVICE

On Sunday, January 7, at the 9:30 service, the Installation of new Council Members and the Recognition of Members of Council Members finishing their terms will take place.

FLOWER CHART & MISSION SUPPORT FOR 2023

The sign-up sheets for Altar Flower and Mission Support dedications for 2024 are on the table in the narthex. The cost to dedicate one bouquet is \$25.00. One week of Mission support is \$25.00.

SPAGHETTI DINNER – JANUARY 27

Saturday, January 27 is the date for Pastor Matt's Spaghetti Dinner. More information to follow.

BLOOD DRIVE, TUESDAY, JANUARY 30

The Blood Drive at Advent will take place, January 30, 2024 from 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Please consider donating and asking your friends and neighbors to join you. All those participating will be entered for a chance to win tickets for Super Bowl LVIII, February 11th in Las Vegas. Package includes tickets, round trip airfare, hotel and a \$1,000 gift card.

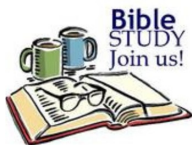
Sign up in the narthex or online at RedCrossBlood.org and enter Sponsor Code: Adventlutheran, or call 1-800-Red Cross or Audrey at 215-913-1037, Thank you for your support.



PING PONG - TUESDAYS AT 6:30 RESTARTING JANUARY 9

All are welcome to join us for an evening of Ping Pong at the church on Tuesday nights at 6:30pm restarting after the Christmas Holidays, January 9.

Please call the church 215-355-2529 if you want to give it a try. (It helps to know how many tables to set up).



THURSDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY, 7:00 PM via ZOOM

Bible Study will resume on Thursday, January 4, 2024. The study is on the book **Bonhoeffer** by John W. Matthews. From the Theology for Life Series, it is a brief overview of the life and writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89632518358?pwd=Smg5dm1Ba0VZamZjNG1YMko2MlVvdz09>

Meeting ID: 896 3251 8358 Passcode: 011905



STITCH CLUB

The Stitch club items are **available throughout the year**. If you need any of the items made by the Stitch Club, i.e., blankets, hats, baby items, please contact Hanna McCollum, 215-262-9032, or Jeff Jobes, 215-355-4149



DRIVE in AND DROP off FOOD COLLECTION

If you have food for the Warminster Food Bank that you or your friends would like to donate and the church is not open, just drive in and drop off the food under the seat of the bench outside the front door. You may still bring food into the church narthex during church and office hours. A list of the Food Bank's most needed items is in the narthex or on the website www.warminsterfoodbank.org. Thank you for helping our neighbors in need.

THIS WEEK AT ADVENT

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT & CHRISTMAS EVE – DECEMBER 24

- 9:00 am Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
- 10:30 am Fellowship Time: Open
- 7:30 pm Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

- 7:30 pm A.A. Open Meeting

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29

- 7:30 pm A.A. Step Meeting

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS – DECEMBER 31

- 9:00 am A Service of Lessons and Carols
- 10:30 am Fellowship Time: Open

