



**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**December 24, 2023**  
**10:00 a.m. Worship**

**Our Mission is to share the life, love and joy of Jesus Christ with others**

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**St. Peter's Staff**

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ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
3025 CHURCH ROAD  
LAFAYETTE HILL, PENNSYLVANIA

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Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2023

Prelude

Welcome

Please stand

Confession and Forgiveness

*Pastor:* Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
who opens the heavens  
and draws near to us with salvation.

*Assembly:* **Amen.**

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

*Silence for reflection*

*Pastor:* Everlasting God,

*Assembly:* **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.**

*Pastor:* 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.

*Assembly:* **Amen.**



Opening Hymn:

*“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”*



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things  
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
far - and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;  
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law  
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*. Köln, 1710; tr. composite

Music: VENI EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.

Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.



## Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle—The Wonder of the Hope

Cantor:

*“The Wonder of Christmas”*

J. Raney

*Pastor:* During Advent, we ignite the wonder of expectation.

*Assembly:* **Open our eyes, O Lord, to behold your glory.**

*Pastor:* During Advent, we look for the light that shines in the darkness.

*Assembly:* **Open our eyes, O Lord, to behold your glory.**

*Pastor:* During Advent, we embrace the hope that enlivens the soul.

*Assembly:* **Open our eyes, O Lord, to behold your glory.**

*Pastor:* During Advent, we welcome the Savior who beckons the world.

*Assembly:* **Open our eyes, O Lord, to behold your glory.**

*Pastor:* During Advent, we rejoice in the One who has reclaimed the lost.

*Assembly:* **Open our eyes, O Lord, to behold your glory.**

### *The fourth candle of Advent is lit*

*Pastor:* Today we light four candles. The first candle calls us to behold the glory of the season with renewed wonder. Advent is a time to be awed by God’s redeeming love for the lost and broken. The second candle calls us to reclaim the promises of God spoken in ages past. As the light fills this room, so the Word of God fills our world with hope for the hurting, peace for the restless, and joy for the heavy hearted. The third candle is an invitation to wait patiently upon the Lord. In a world where we often lack for patience, Advent reminds us to rest in God’s timing and trust God’s plan. The fourth candle challenges us to grow in faithful expectation. As people who faith often becomes tamed to the miraculous, Advent is a time to remember afresh a God in whom all things are possible.

Congregation: JOEL RANEY

There is won - der in the hope of the birth of a  
King, there is won - der in the sound of the an - gels as they  
sing. O — come, O come, Em - man - u -  
el, and join us here.

*Pastor:* Let us pray. Gracious Lord, open our eyes to the wonders you have done, open our ears to the promises you have spoken, and open our hearts that we might become the people you have called us to be. We pray this in the name of Christ, our Lord.

*Assembly:* **Amen.**

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

*Assembly:* **And also with you.**

**Kyrie:**

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy; have mer - cy, O Lord.

Music: *Mass No. 1*, Avon Gillespie  
Music © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. [www.giamusic.com](http://www.giamusic.com). 800.442.3358.  
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*Pastor:* The Lord be with you.

*Assembly:* **And also with you.**

**Prayer of the Day:**

*Pastor:* 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.

*Assembly:* **Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## Announcements

### 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.*

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

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

*Lector:* The word of the Lord.

*Assembly:* **Thanks be to God.**

### 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.*

<sup>25</sup>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 <sup>26</sup>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—<sup>27</sup>to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

*Lector:* The word of the Lord.  
*Assembly:* **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

**Gospel Reading:** **Luke 1:26-38**

*Pastor:* The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the first chapter.  
*People:* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*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.*

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

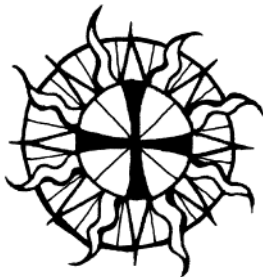
*Pastor:* The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People:* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated

**Message:**

Pastor Suloff

Please stand

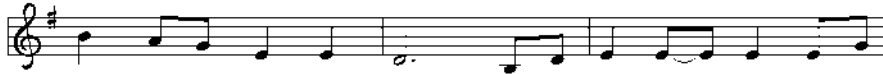


## Hymn of the Day:

## “Canticle of the Turning”



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the  
2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .  
3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a  
4 Though the na - tions rage from . . . age to age, we re -



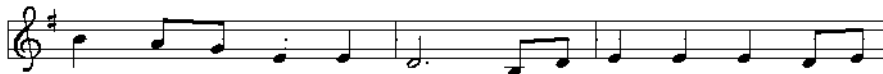
God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the  
work great, . . . things in me. and your mer - cy will last from the  
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.  
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
The hun - gry poor shall . . . weep no more, for the  
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my  
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the  
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry  
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



*Refrain*  
My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.



## The Apostles' Creed:

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 Intercession:

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

*Please kneel or be seated*

*(The Prayers of the Church are said)*

*Pastor:* Merciful God;

***Assembly:* Receive our prayer.**

*Pastor:* Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

***Assembly:* Amen.**

*Please stand*

*Pastor:* The peace of the Lord be with you.

***Assembly:* And also with you.**

*Please be seated*

## Offering:

Offering Music:

***"God With Us"***

***- Terrain***

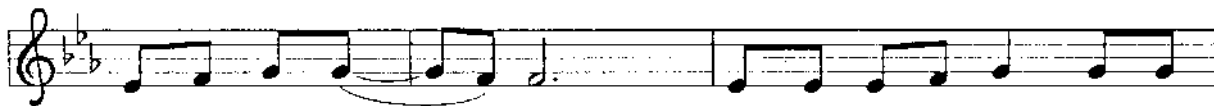
Please stand

**Offering Song:**

**“Create in Me”**



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right



spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your



pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.



Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me



with your free Spir - it. Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God,



and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

**Offering Prayer:**

*Pastor:*

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.

*Assembly:*

**Amen.**

## The Great Thanksgiving

*Pastor:* The Lord be with you.

*Pastor:* Lift up your hearts.

*Pastor:* Let us give thanks to the Lord  
our God.

*Assembly:* And also with you

*Assembly:* We lift them to the Lord.

*Assembly:* It is right to give God  
thanks and praise.

*Pastor:* 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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



## Words of Institution

*Pastor:* 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.

*Pastor:* Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray,

*Assembly:* **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.**

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -  
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

### **The Distribution:**

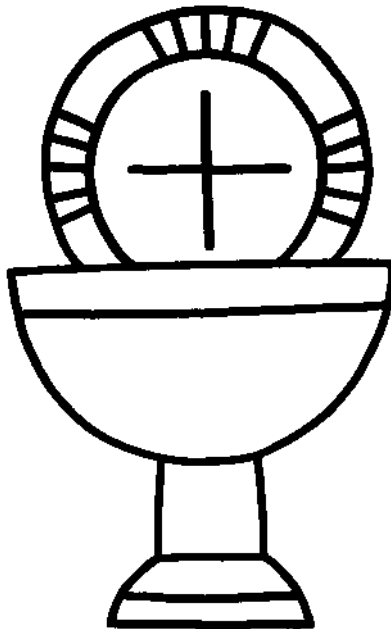
*All those who believe in the presence of the Lord at the table, are invited to share in the sacrament. If you would like to receive Communion or a blessing from the pastor please join the line in the middle aisle of the sanctuary, receive the bread, and then move to the chalice and dip your wafer in the wine. If you prefer to remain in your pew or are joining us for worship online please take the individual Communion Cup or the elements of your choosing and share them with one another and with the community. If young children are present who have not yet received their First Communion please bring them forward or take a moment and share a blessing with them. Be the community of Christ with all those gathered near and far. All are welcome at the table of the Lord.*

*Pastor: The body of Christ, given for you.*

*(At this time receive the bread, cracker, or that which you are using as the body of Christ)*

*Pastor: The blood of Christ, shed for you.*

*(At this time receive the wine, juice, water, or that which you are using as the blood of Christ)*



Please Stand

*Pastor:* May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

*Assembly:* Amen.

**The Post-Communion Prayer:**

*Pastor:* 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.

*Assembly:* Amen.



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry - one what God has



done. Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and lead us forth in



joy with shouts of thanks-giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: *Bread of Life*, Jeremy Young, b. 1948

Text © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress and music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

**The Benediction**

*Pastor:* 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.  
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, † and of the Holy Spirit.

*Assembly:* Amen.

Closing Hymn:

*“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”*



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,  
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker. *Southern Harmony*, 1835

*Pastor:* Go in peace to share the life, love, and joy of Jesus Christ with all.  
*Assembly:* **Thanks be to God.**



## Flower Dedication

*If you would like to dedicate altar flowers please contact Lisa in the church office. .*

### **HELP US KEEP THE PRAYER LIST CURRENT:**

If you would like to add a name to the prayer list please contact the church office at office-assist.splh@gmail.com or simply use the Prayer Request Form that can be found on the church website.

**Please remember in your prayers those members, family and friends on our prayer list:**

The Altman Family	Ted Hyczko	Julie Proll
Joanne Barnhardt	Betty Jane Knittel	Leigh Richard
David Beyer	The Kortrey Family	The Shollenberger Family
The Chamberlain Family	George Kulczycky	Ursula Schwartz
Debbie Davis	The Kwartnik Family	Steve Schultz
Marge Devitt	John Soo Lee & Family	William Scott
Cooper Durham	Rose Letouille	Karen Specos
Hunter Durham	Vincent Muscarella	Karen Speers
Robert Emberger	Melissa Mooran	John Swancott
Bernadette Fisher	Frank Munafo	Jackie Strauss
George Ginther	The Munn Family	Teresa Weber
Harvey A. Headley Jr.	The Neborak Family	The Wentz Family
Lindy Hughes	Lindsay Peterson	The Winfree Family
Walt Humm		