



December 24, 2023
4th Sunday in Advent ~ 10:00 a.m.
Lessons and Carols -- Holy Eucharist
Rev Debra Vanover, Presider and Celebrant
St. Martin's Episcopal Church - Lebanon, OR

Advent IV – **LOVE**

Prelude “Birthday of a King” *Ray Hendricks*

Processional Hymn # 102 “Once in Royal David’s City”

Lighting the Advent Wreath (Use the Advent Wreath Candle Lighting Booklet in the Pew)
Verse 4 of ‘O come, o come, Emmanuel’ Hymn 56 (in Unison)

*O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who ordered all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show
and teach us in its ways to go.
Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.*

Words of Welcome

Greeting

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Collect for the Day (in unison)

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Lessons and Carols



The First Lesson is from the Book of Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness-- on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

- Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people
- **People: Thanks be to God**

Carol: Hymn #437 "Tell Out my Soul" (vs 1 & 2)

The Second Lesson is from the Gospel of Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

- Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people
- **People: Thanks be to God**

Carol: Hymn #79 "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (vs 1 & 5)

The Third Lesson Luke 2: 8-20

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds

returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

- Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people
- **People: Thanks be to God**

Carol: Hymn # 96 "Angels we have heard on High"

The Peace

- *Presider* The peace of the Lord be always with you.
- *People* **And also with you.**

The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.



Christ is Born!

Solo

"O Holy Night"

Doug Young

Light the Christ Candle of Advent Wreath using booklet –

Musical Interlude -- (Don't sing "O Come, O Come")

The banner, cross, vestments are changed as we welcome the arrival of the Christ child.



The Liturgy of the Table - Eucharistic Prayer C

The Offertory Sentence;

Presider: Walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering & sacrifice to God.

Hymn of Presentation 'Doxology with Alleluias' (sing to the tune of hymn 618)

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below; Alleluia, Alleluia!
Praise him above ye heavenly hosts:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, Alleluia! Alleluia, Alleluia! Alleluia!***

The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer C BCP p. 369

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 God thanks and praise.

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Celebrant and People (Sing together)

***Holy, holy, holy lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.***

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the lord.

Hosanna in the highest; Hosanna in the highest.

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. ***Amen.***

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

The Lord's Prayer *(sing together)*

***Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory,
Are yours now and forever. Amen. Amen.***

The Breaking of the Bread

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

**A Pastoral Word of Welcome to Christ's Meal at the Lord's Table
Sharing in the Lord's Meal**

Pastoral Blessing

Priest: Christ has shown himself among us. God has made a dwelling place in the midst of us. The voice of peace has spoken and love has reached every heart. The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

Congregation: Amen

Communion Hymn: #101

"Away in a Manger"

Post-Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving *(let us say together)*

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for St. Martin's Church *(let us say together)*

God of Love, open our eyes and ears to perceive you at work in creation, the church, and our parish. Fill our hearts with your love that we may reach out in love to others. Stir up our imagination with your Holy Spirit that we may find new ways to live into life with you. Give us a vision of your mission that we may share your love and your spirit in all the places where we work and play and worship you. In Jesus' holy name, Amen.

Christmas Season Blessings

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless us in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten our hearts with the light of his holiness. ***Amen***

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill us with joy, and make us heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give us his peace and favor. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon us and remain with us forever. **Amen.**



Lighting of the Christmas Candles -- Acolytes provide light for the candles down the center aisle, while the overhead lights are turned off. Unlit candles should be dipped toward the lighted candles as the flame is passed down the pews.

Recessional #111 **“Silent Night, Holy Night”**
in darkness with lighted candles

Choir sings “Seven-fold Amen”
Please extinguish candles after the seven-fold Amen.

Dismissal:

- Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord, Alleluia, Alleluia
- **Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia**

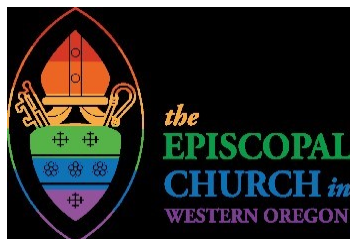
Postlude

Ray Hendricks



WELCOME VISITORS

It is our hope that our service may have a deep and abiding meaning for all who worship here. Please join us in the Parish Hall following the service for coffee and fellowship.



Welcome Rev. Deacon Keehna Sture to St Martin's Parish. Deacon Keehna has been assigned by Bishop Akiyama to St Martin's Parish. Contact Deacon Keehna at the church MWF mornings (541 451-1159), or at ksture5983@gmail.com.