

**St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Lebanon, Oregon**  
**Sunday December 20, 2020 ~ 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
**Celebrant, Rev. Debbie Vanover**

**Prelude and Processional Music**

**Leader:** Last Sunday we lit the Candle of Joy. We light it and the Candles of Hope and Peace again as we remember Jesus, born in Bethlehem, our hope, our peace, and our joy.

*The purple candles of Hope, and Peace, and the pink candle of Joy are lit as the Leader continues*

Today we light the Fourth Candle of Advent, the Candle of Love. In their old age God gave to Zechariah and Elisabeth a son called John. John spoke to the people bravely in the desert denying his own comforts and prepared to die for what he believed. John taught that we should share what we have with others, treat each other kindly and show God's love. He did this because he cared for people and wanted them to repent and find God's forgiveness.

*A person lights the fourth candle as the Leader continues.*

Love is like a candle shining in a dark place. As we look at the light of this candle, we celebrate the love we have in Christ. Let us pray.

**All:** Lord God, Your witness John the Baptist grew up strong in spirit and prepared people for the coming of the Lord. He loved your people and baptized them in the River Jordan to wash away their sins. Help us to have the same love that we would be witnesses to him and spread the good news of your love. As Christmas draws closer day by day, help us to be ready to welcome him. *Amen.*

**Verse 4 of 'O come, o come, Emmanuel' say in unison**

O come, thou Branch of Jesse's stem,  
unto your own and rescue them!  
From depths of hell your people save,  
and give them victory o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.

**Opening Acclamation**

- ✦ Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- ✦ And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Collect of the Day**

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

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

When the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, 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." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

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. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

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

### **Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26**

- 1 Your love, O LORD, for ever will I sing; \*  
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.
- 2 For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever; \*  
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 for ever, \*  
and preserve your throne for all generations.'"
- 19 You 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.
- 21 My hand will hold him fast \*  
and my arm will make him strong.
- 22 No enemy shall deceive him, \*  
nor any wicked man bring him down.
- 23 I will crush his foes before him \*  
and strike down those who hate him.
- 24 My faithfulness and love shall be with him, \*  
and he shall be victorious through my Name.
- 25 I shall make his dominion extend \*  
from the Great Sea to the River.
- 26 He will say to me, 'You are my Father, \*  
my God, and the rock of my salvation.'

## **Second Lesson – Romans 16:25-27**

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 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-- to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

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

## **The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke (1:26-38))**

- ✦ **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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, favored 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 favor 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 forever, 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.

- ✦ This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- ✦ **Thanks be to God**

## **Sermon**

The Rev. Debbie Vanover

## **Nicene Creed**

**(BCP p.358)**

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. **Amen.**

#### **Special Prayers for Advent IV**

**The response is** *Lord, graciously hear us*

As we wait with pregnant expectation for the coming of Jesus, let us offer prayers to God who sends his Son in the womb of a virgin.

For the coming of Jesus Christ in power and glory.  
For the coming of Wisdom to teach and guide us.  
For the coming of Emmanuel, the hope of all the peoples.

For this parish community of St. Martin's that the Lord would bless us with health and vitality in pursuit of the mission he has given us. Lord, hear us.

*People* Lord, graciously hear us.

For the peace of the world, and for our unity in Christ. Lord, hear us.

*People* Lord, graciously hear us.

For Michael our presiding bishop, Michael our bishop, Diana our Bishop-elect and all bishops, for all clergy and deacons and all who minister in Christ, and for all the holy people of God.

Lord, hear us.

*People* Lord, graciously hear us.

For the church throughout the world and the faithful in every place. Lord, hear us.

*People* Lord, graciously hear us.

For the leaders of the nations and all-in authority. Lord, hear us.

*People* Lord, graciously hear us.

For justice, peace, and freedom among peoples of the earth. Lord, hear us.

*People* Lord, graciously hear us.

For travelers, for the sick and the suffering, for the hungry and the oppressed, and for those in prison. Lord, hear us.

*People* Lord, graciously hear us.

For all faithful departed, and for those whose faith is known to God alone, especially Bob Lewis, Betty Stokes, Sue Gillenwater, and The Rev. Deacon Bill Losher. Lord, hear us.

*People* Lord, graciously hear us.

For our deliverance from all affliction, strife, and need, remembering especially those on our prayer list and those we name now silently or aloud. Lord, hear us.

*People* Lord, graciously hear us.

Joining our voices with the blessed Virgin Mary, St. Martin, the Angel Gabriel, and with all the saints and angels of God, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.  
*To you, O Lord.*

*Celebrant*

O Wisdom, breath from the mouth of God most high, you reign from one end of the earth to the other, and govern all creation with strong and tender care: Come and teach us the way of wisdom. Glory to you for ever. *Amen.*

**Confession of Sin & Absolution**

BCP p. 360

**The Peace**

(Just wave from your pew)

BCP p. 360

**Offertory Music**

(a basket is placed in the Narthex)

### **The Liturgy of the Table**

**The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer A**

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**The Lord's Prayer** *said not sung*

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,  
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

### **Communion of the People**

The wafer only will be brought to you;  
please wait until Rev. Debbie is out of your pew before removing your mask to eat your wafer

### **Communion Hymn** (*instrumental only, no singing*)

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving** **Seasonal Blessing**

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### **Closing Hymn** (*instrumental only, for recessional*)

### **Dismissal**

- ✦ Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
- ✦ **Thanks be to God, Alleluia, alleluia.**

### **Postlude**