



December 18, 2022 -
Fourth Sunday in Advent - Year A
St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Lebanon, OR 97355
10 am **THE HOLY EUCHARIST - Rite II**
Br Robert James, Presider & Preacher

Advent IV -- LOVE

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.

Prelude - "Personent hodie" (German tune - 1360) Susan Bevington

Processional Hymn # 66 "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

Lighting the Advent Wreath

(Or use the Advent Wreath Candle Lighting Booklet in the Pew)

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.*

All sing Hymn #56 Verse 4 "O come, o come, Emmanuel"

Opening Acclamation

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

Collect for Purity [BCP p. 355]

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Trisagion (in unison) S-102

- ❖ **Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have Mercy Upon Us**
- ❖ **Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have Mercy Upon Us**
- ❖ **Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have Mercy Upon Us**

Collect for the Day (in unison)

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.

Liturgy of The Word

First Lesson from the Shared Hebrew Scriptures

Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore 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. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For 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."

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm *Qui regis Israel* (sung using modified Anglican chant – S415) Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

- ¹ Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.**
- ² In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.**
- ³ Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**
- ⁴ O LORD God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?**
- ⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.**

- ⁶ You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- ⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- ¹⁶ Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- ¹⁷ And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
- ¹⁸ Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Second Lesson

The Letter to Romans 1:1-7

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

To 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.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel Hymn # 65

"Prepare the Way"

Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

Gospeller: The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Now 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. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But 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. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

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

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

Gospeller: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: *Praise to you, Lord Christ*

The Creed (*Let us say together*)

Presider and Congregants: **Jesus Christ is Lord.**

Prayers of the People – A Special Form for Advent 4 Year A

Leader: O Come, O come, Emmanuel,

People: be our hope and our salvation.

Mary, the mother of Christ, is a sign to the church of faithful obedience to the will of God. As we come to the commemoration of the birth of Christ, let us pray that we, like Mary, hear God’s word and respond in obedient faith to the coming of Christ, saying: O God, who is with us,

Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for the church, that every baptized member may manifest Christ in the world.

O God, who is with us,

Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for the leaders of government in every nation, especially for Joe, our President and his advisors, for Congress; for Kate and Tina, our governor; that they may have wisdom to choose what serves the common good. O God, who is with us,

Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for all who are in need, remembering all who are sick, the elderly, those who are alone, and all who minister to them, especially _____,

that we all may be strengthened by the presence of Christ as the sign of God’s love.

O God, who is with us,

Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for those with whom we share our daily lives, our families, friends and neighbors, and those with whom we work and play, that we may all be strengthened and sustained by God’s presence with us. O God, who is with us,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for those to whom we take Communion today: _____

O God, who is with us,

Hear our prayer.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. _____

O God, who is with us,

Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for those who have died, especially _____, that they may rest in peace. May we wait in hope for the promise of resurrection with them. O God, who is with us,

Hear our prayer.

Presider:

Hasten, O God, the coming of your dominion. Come to us in Christ, that we who live by faith in this world may see our faith confirmed in the world to come, through our risen Christ.

Amen.

Confession of Sin & Absolution

[BCP p. 360]

Presider Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.
Silence may be kept.
Minister and People

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

the Presider, stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace [BCP p. 360]
Offertory "What is this Lovely Fragrance?" (arr: David Wilcocks) Susan Bevington

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

The Lord's Prayer (*let us 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.**

Announcements

Birthdays & Anniversaries *front cover of BCP (Red Prayer Book)*

Seasonal Blessing

Closing Hymn # 64 O Heavenly Word

Dismissal [BCP p. 366]

Celebrant Let us bless the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came" *Susan Bevington*
(arr: Anna Laura Page)

Psalm 121 Episcopal Rosary

*(You are invited to pray the prayers **in bold** together out loud.)*

The Cross: In the Name of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Invitatory: O God make speed to save us.

O Lord make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The Cruciform: I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?

My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.

Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.

The Weeks: *Each phrase is said on a separate bead.*

- The LORD himself watches over me.
- **The LORD will not let my foot be moved.**
- The One who watches over me will not fall asleep.
- **The LORD is my shade at my right hand.**
- The LORD shall preserve me from all evil.
- **It is the LORD who shall keep me safe.**
- The LORD shall watch over my going out and my coming in,
from this time forth, forevermore.

(Return to the Cruciform prayer and the Weeks, four times in total.)

The Cruciform, last time through:

**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 Invitatory, end of prayer: Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Cross, end of prayer: In the Name of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**