

**Paradise Lutheran Church - Thomasville, PA**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent                      December 24, 2024                      10:15 a.m.**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

Pastor: We gather in the name of God, the Creator of light; + Jesus, the Light of the world; and the Holy Spirit, the Light who illumines our path. **All: Amen.**

Pastor: God is light. If we say we have fellowship with God but continue living in the ways of darkness, we do not practice the truth. But if we confess our sin, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive us in the name of Jesus.

*Silence for reflection.*

Pastor: God of Love and Light,

**All: We confess that we are not always the light-bearers you call us to be. We fail to love you wholeheartedly and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We shine a spotlight on the transgressions of others while trying to keep our own sins hidden in the dark. We succumb to the gloom of fear and doubt. We let our witness be a lamp hidden under a basket. Forgive us, Jesus, Everlasting Light. Come to us, abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel. Teach us to walk as children of light, surrounded by your love, forgiveness, and healing. We ask this in the name of Christ. Amen.**

Pastor: In Christ, we have life, forgiveness, and fellowship with God and all creation. Beloved, your sins are forgiven. Walk in the light as God is in the light. **All: Amen.**

# Gathering Song “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” *Verses 1, 2, 6, 7*



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.

6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;  
 O Sun of justice, now draw near.  
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
 and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*

7 O come, O King of nations, come,  
 O Cornerstone that binds in one:  
 refresh the hearts that long for you;  
 restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*

## Greeting

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

**All: And also with you.**

## Kyrie



Lord, have mer - cy\_\_\_ on your peo - ple. Christ have mer - cy\_\_\_ on\_\_\_ us.  
Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Chri - ste e - le - i - son.



Shine your light in\_\_\_ to our dark - ness. Fill\_\_\_ us\_\_\_ with your ho - ly love.  
Heal all\_\_\_ con - flicts be - tween na - tions. Teach us\_\_\_ how to\_\_\_ live as one.



Be our strength in times of\_\_\_ trou - ble. Set us free from chains that\_\_\_ bind.  
Show us how to love our\_\_\_ neigh - bor. Run to those who\_\_\_ cry for\_\_\_ help.



Breathe new\_ life in - to our\_\_\_ spir - its. Pu - ri - fy our\_\_\_ hearts and minds.  
Word made flesh who lives a - mong us; Christ our\_\_\_ Lord, Em - man - u - el.

## Hymn of Praise

Glo - ry be to God on high. Peace, good-will to all the earth. Let us sing a  
Love has come to dwell with us. Light now shines on ev - 'ry - one. Hope has lift - ed  
joy - ful song to the Christ, the Liv - ing Word. Glo - - -  
up our hearts. Joy has made, in us, a home.  
- - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o; Glor -  
- - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

## Prayer of the Day

Pastor: 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. **All: Amen.**

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath “We Are Waiting for Jesus”



1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.  
Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

*Blessing to be recited when lighting four candles.*

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. **All: Amen.**

*Psalmody: Luke 1:46b-55 (read responsively)*

<sup>46b</sup>My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

<sup>47</sup>my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup>**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.**

**From this day all generations will call me blessed:**

<sup>49</sup>you, the Almighty, have done great things for me  
and holy is your name.

<sup>50</sup>**You have mercy on those who fear you,  
from generation to generation.**

<sup>51</sup>You have shown strength with your arm  
and scattered the proud in their conceit,

<sup>52</sup>**casting down the mighty from their thrones  
and lifting up the lowly.**

<sup>53</sup>You have filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup>**You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,  
to remember the promise of mercy,**

<sup>55</sup>the promise made to our forebears,  
to Abraham and his children forever.

Pastor: The holy Gospel according to Luke, the first chapter.

**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

<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.

*After the reading:*

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

**Sermon**

## Hymn of the Day “The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,  
 2 “For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,  
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;  
 4 Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:  
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;  
 “To me be as it pleas - eth God,” she said.  
 in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



“All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,  
 thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
 “My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God’s ho - ly name.”  
 and Chris-tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say:



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.”  
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.” Glo - ri - a!  
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,  
 “Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.”



## **Apostles' Creed**

Pastor: We, who are many, are one body in Christ. Together we confess our faith, in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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: Lord, in your mercy, **All: hear our prayer.**

## **Sharing of the Peace**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**All: And also with you.**

## **Offering**

**Invitation**

**Offertory Music**

## **Offertory Prayer**

Pastor: Let us pray. Generous God, you have created all that is, and you provide for us in every season. Bless all that we offer, that through these gifts, the world will receive your blessing. In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray. **All: Amen.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

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

**All: 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.**

## **Blessing**

Pastor: The God of peace bless you, the light of † Christ shine upon you, and the anointing of the Spirit fill you with hope.

**All: Amen.**

## Sending Hymn: "Joy to the World"

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his rich - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing  
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

## **Dismissal**

Pastor: Go in peace, love like Jesus.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude**

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**WELCOME** to Paradise! While we may not take risks like Mary took ('sure, I'll bear the Savior of the Whole World, why not?!'), what risks do we take in our lives these days? New schools, new jobs, new foods, new medical procedures, new relationships? How do those risks turn out for us?

**IN OUR PRAYERS:** Janet Mansberger, Joyce Bentzel, Kay Brady, Sherry Feeser, Gloria Krebs; Kaleb Trump, Nancy and Jerry Frey-Markell, Ron Schwartz, Bob Markle, Samantha Zorbaugh, Gwen Schnetzka, Angie Zepp, Melissa Hipkiss, Erika Smith, Jody Stauffer, Kim Culbert, Mark and Connie Keller, Heather Shoemaker, Judy Jarvis, Bernie Tucker, Sue Sell, Joe Pohlman, Linda Schreier, Connie McNeil, James Sanders, Bill Funk, Christine Ruth Smith, Jen Miller, Dolores Diehl

*For those in prison, especially Patrick and Keith*

*For those who mourn*

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the Glory of God by an anonymous donor.

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**AFTER FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT WORSHIP THIS MORNING**, the day shifts to Christmas Eve, so join us in person at 3:30 or 7 p.m. for our candlelight worship services. **Bring cookies to share between services**, and don't forget, the concert will be held at 6:30 p.m. Come hear our vocalists and instrumentalists!

**NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31**, will be one service at 9 a.m., as we celebrate a Service of Lessons and Carols to hear and sing the entire Christmas story!

**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED through January 1**.

**2023 CONTRIBUTIONS** must be received by **December 29**.

**2024 ENVELOPES** are in the narthex. Grab yours at worship tonight!

**GIANT and WEIS CARDS** are available for purchase. See Pat Zech or Heidi Wolf. The church gets a portion of the total purchased.

**WEBSITE:** The **December** website is sponsored by *Justice White*. Let Julie know if you'd like to sponsor a month in **2025**. Available: February, March, October, November, and December. Cost: \$20.

**SPECIAL OFFERING ENVELOPE** for **December** will go to *Benevolence*.

**Giving of time and tithes:**

Attendance: Sunday, December 17: early, 31; late, 55; Blue Christmas, 11

Offerings	Our budget needs for God's Mission	Your actual gifts from 12/10/23	Difference
Current	\$4,376.00	\$4,093.00	-\$283.00
Benevolence	\$283.00	\$398.00	+\$115.00
Capital Improvements	\$289.00	\$420.00	+\$131.00
	<i>Actual expenses to date</i>	<i>Total actual gifts to date</i>	<i>Difference</i>
	\$218,398.22	\$217,492.99	-\$905.23



**Worship Participants:**

**Pastor: Reverend Sigrid Hipkiss**

**Minister of Music: Allison Trump**



*Church information:*

***Gathered to worship, care, and grow; sent to love like Jesus!***

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