

St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church
1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53213

December 19th, 2021

8:30 a.m. Service

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Gift of Love

Introduction for the Day: Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion — with high delight— "we proclaim the Lord's death."

Gathering

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Pastor Sheila Rawn

Call to Worship

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child arr. by Cathy Moglebust
The EmBELLishments

(Please stand as you are able)

Opening Dialogue

This season of Advent confronts many of our emotions.

Sometimes we are curious about what the future holds.

"Do not be afraid. I am bringing you good news of great joy."

Let us go to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place.

Let us make known what has been told to us about this child.

And we will all share tidings of comfort and joy.

O God who brings comfort and joy, when we wait with anticipation of what will come, speak to our curiosity. Comfort us with your surprises and give us hearts that are thankful for all that you provide. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

Advent Proclamation

We Are Waiting for Jesus

We are wait - ing for__ Je - sus; Je - sus__ brings love.

We are wait - ing for__ Je - sus; Je - sus__ brings love.

Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.

We are wait - ing for__ Je - sus; Je - sus__ brings love.

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Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

The Sun of righteousness shall rise with shining beams of healing, hope, peace, joy, and LOVE.

We are people of faith who wait for the light. We wait for Christ.

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God for whom we wait,

in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. Our words and deeds have not proclaimed your reign of justice and truth. We have failed to watch and pray for the signs of your advent among us. Forgive our sin and come quickly to save us.

Amen.

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, † your sins are forgiven. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of love.

Amen.

Gathering Song

#248 People, Look East

Advent Greeting

May the love of this season embrace you with God's grace.

And also with you.

(Please be seated)

Advent Candle Lighting - The Gift of Love

On this Advent journey, we are mindful of the brokenness of the world that surrounds us.

Help us mend the brokenhearted with your LOVE.

As we look around us, we see the hostility that exists between neighbor and nation.

We long for your peace and LOVE.

As we look within ourselves, we confess the reconciling words we have yet to speak and restoring deeds we have yet to do.

Today we strive for the LOVE that surpasses all understanding.

Let us pray. O Lord our God, you break into our world with messages of hope, peace, joy, and love. Renew our strength as we wait for your coming. Shine your light for those who live in darkness. Establish your love throughout the earth. Prepare our hearts for the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, the Savior of us all.

Amen. *[All the Advent candles are lit.]*

Advent Response

Hope, Peace, Joy and Love

[We will sing this response two times.]

Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love! These are gifts you
bring from above, Je - sus, Em - man - u - el, come to
be light of your hope, re - flect - ed in me.

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Word

First Reading

Micah 5:2-5a

The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.

A reading from Micah, chapter 5.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Luke 1:46b-55

You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly. (Lk. 1:52)

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant. From this day all
 generations will call me blessed:**

you, the Almighty, have done great things for me and holy is your name.

You have mercy on those who fear you, from generation to generation.

You have shown strength with your arm and scattered the proud in their conceit,
casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.

You have filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

You have come to the aid of your servant Israel, to remember the promise of mercy,
 the promise made to our forebears, to Abraham and his children forever.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

(Please stand as you are able)

Gospel Acclamation

Emmanuel

Em-man - u - el, Em-man - u - el, his name is called
 Em-man - u - el. God with us, re - veal'd in
 us, his name is called Em-man - u - el.

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(Please stand as you are able)

Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

In the beginning was the Word,

And the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

A reading from Luke, the 1st Chapter.

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.

The Word of God is scripture, among us,

The Word of God is within us. Thanks be to God.

(Please be seated)

Sermon

Pastor Sheila Rawn

(Please stand as you are able)

Hymn of the Day

#251 My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

(Prayer Cards will be collected during the hymn of the day)

Service of Holy Baptism for Vanessa Szafir

(Please follow along in your Hymnals on Page 227)

(Please be seated)

Presentation

(Please stand as you are able)

Profession of Faith

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

(Please be seated)

Thanksgiving at the Font

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Baptism

Baptismal Response

#212 You Belong to Christ

You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

You be - long to Christ, in whom you have been bap - tized.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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Welcome

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

(Please stand as you are able)

Prayers of Intercession

As we await the coming of Christ, we pray in hope for the church, the world, and all of creation.

Call to Prayer

Come, Lord Jesus. Hear our Prayer

Come, Lord Je - sus, come, Lord Je - sus. Hear our prayer.

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...Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

Prayer Response

Come, Lord Jesus. Hear our Prayer

Come, Lord Je - sus, come, Lord Je - sus. Hear our prayer.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

The peace of the Lord be with you all.

And also with you.

Thanksgiving

(Please be seated)

Musical Offering

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime arr. by Jason Krug
The EmbELLishments

(Please stand as you are able)

Offertory Response

With Joy, O Lord, Our Gifts We Bring

1. With joy, O Lord, our gifts we bring, A tri - bute
 2. Em - ploy, O God, the gifts here shared That in the
 to our Ad - vent King, Who comes with - in our midst to
 world may be pre - pared The way of Christ, whose name we
 dwell As God with us, Em - man - u - el.
 bless, Who comes, the Lord our right - eous - ness.

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Offering Prayer

Let us pray, Creator God, you called upon simple folk to join your holy family; young Mary, quiet Joseph, and elderly Elizabeth. Despite their human frailties, you accepted them. Accept now these gifts of ours even as you have accepted us into your holy family. Through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come, your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**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.**

Sending

(Please be seated)

Recognition of Jill Due

(Please stand as you are able)

Blessing

The peace of God accompany your waiting, the light of ✠ Christ warm your hearts, and
the joy of the Spirit fill you with peace.

Amen.

Dismissal

The coming of the Lord is near. Go in peace, prepare the way.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Veni Emmanuel arr. by Aaron David Miller

A healing Service will follow directly after the Postlude in the Sanctuary.