

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO**

December 19, 2021

10:00am

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

GATHERING

PRESERVICE MUSIC

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

“Christ Is Coming!”

“God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen”

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”

“Emmanuel, Emmanuel”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING OF PRAYER REQUESTS

LIGHTING THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

(Bob Entrop, Rebecca Johnson, Erica Entrop)

Jesus says: I am coming soon.

Amen. Come Lord Jesus!

We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ. As the Lord has promised, in days to come...

The nations shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks;

nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

(Light the first candle)

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling will lie down together, and a little child shall lead them.

(Light the second candle)

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom;

like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

(Light the third candle)

The Lord will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child.

She shall bear a son, and name him Emmanuel: “God is with us.”

(Light the fourth candle)

Let us walk in the light of the Lord. **Amen.**

CHIMES

PRELUDE

“Hornes” (Biggs)

CALL TO WORSHIP

(Feasting on the Word Worship Companion)

Out of little Bethlehem comes one who is to rule in Israel.

He shall be great to the ends of the earth.

Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.

God’s mercy extends from generation to generation.

Holy is God’s name!

***OPENING HYMN #129** *“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”* (Kirchengesang)

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Stir up your power, O God, and come to set us free by the righteousness of your birth in our midst, by the light of your face shining upon us, and by becoming our brother, our friend, our salvation. We pray this in the name of the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, mother of us all.

Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

In the world, and in this season, there are many claims on our lives. We take this time to remember that in our baptism, Christ claimed us as his own. We acknowledge before God and one another that we have not followed Jesus Christ with all our heart and mind and strength. Trusting in God’s grace, let us pray.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God our Savior, we ask for your mercy. Though we have heard Mary’s song, we still seek security in pride and power and possessions. Though we know your story, we resist the costs of following you. We pass by those considered lowly in this world. We turn away from hungry people who still wait to be filled. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to work for the justice you intend. Make us messengers of the peace you bring. As we wait for you, turn our apathy into acts of love and service. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, God is for us and not against us. For that very reason, God sent the Son into the world—not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Believe the good news:

In Jesus Christ you are forgiven!

Thanks be to God.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O Mighty One, who scatters the proud and fills the hungry, by your Holy Spirit let your word leap in us and bring to our yearning the joy that comes with new beginnings and renewed lives. **Amen.**

READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS

Psalm 80:1–7

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Micah 5:2–5a

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Hebrews 10:5–10

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

QUARTET

“Christmas Sanctus” (Dengler)
(Wayne Bevers, Bob Entrop, Mary Hubbard, Wendy Lunsford)

(Please stand for the reading of the Gospels if you are able)

*READING FROM THE GOSPELS

Luke 1:39–55

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

*HYMN #99

“My Soul Gives Glory to My God”
(Wyeth’s Repository of Sacred Music)

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Colossians 1:15-20

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible. All things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is head of the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn of the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fulness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen

PASTORAL PRAYER

MEDITATION ON THE STEWARDSHIP OF TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURE

God does not desire us to bring burnt offerings and sin offerings but instead asks that we do God's will. So, we bring to God now the offerings of our lives and our labors, with the prayer that God's will may be done through them.
Hebrews 10:5–10

MUSICAL OFFERING

“Love Came Down at Christmas” (Brown)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

You deliver us, O God, from exile, separation, and despair into communion with each other, with you, and with your good news. We thank you for all that draws us close together, astounding us with lives transformed by gratitude. Accept our gifts as signs of our gratitude for what you give us every day and as honor to your presence in our world; for the sake of those who stand in need and Jesus Christ, who saves us. Amen.

OUR LORD'S PRAYER

**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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors.**

**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.**

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN #88** *“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”* (Plainsong)
(verses 4, 5, 6, 7)

***MOMENT OF SILENCE TO PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH**

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

***POSTLUDE**

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

*Please stand if you are able where asterisks are printed.
Words in **bold print** are spoken by the congregation.