

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO**

**December 20, 2020
The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

GATHERING

PRESERVICE MUSIC SET

*“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”
“The Snow Lay on the Ground”
“Angels from the Realms of Glory”
“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”
“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”
“Mary, Did You Know?”
“Emmanuel, Emmanuel”*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHIMES

PRELUDE

Fantasia on “Adeste Fidelis” (Smith)

LIGHTING THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

From Psalm 89

The Lord spoke, saying,

“I will establish the descendants of King David forever,
and his throne as long as the heavens endure.”

**The one for whom we wait, the Messiah, the Anointed One of God
is descended from David; he wears the crown of royalty.**

I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;

with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

**I will announce that your steadfast love is established forever;
your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.**

On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of love, reminding ourselves that the love of the Lord is indeed steadfast. The Lord’s love is demonstrated in the giving of his Beloved Son, for whom we wait and watch.

***OPENING HYMN #140**

“Once in Royal David’s City” (vss. 1, 2, 4)

(Gauntlett)

***PRAYER OF ADORATION**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, on this Fourth Sunday of Advent we recall the faithfulness of Mary, the mother of Jesus, who was willing to risk shame, humiliation, rejection, and even death to serve as your instrument in bringing redemption to the world. Forgive us, we pray, when our faithfulness flags under hardship or threat. Forgive us when we seek the easy way out of your call on our lives. Forgive us when we ignore your summons and pursue our own paths. Heal and transform us, we pray, by the power of your amazing Holy Spirit, so that we may always be useful to you in your ongoing mission to the world. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel!
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

2 Samuel 7:12-16

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT LETTERS

Romans 16:25-27

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

*READING FROM THE GOSPELS

Luke 1:26-38

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Nothing Will Be Impossible with God”

*HYMN #145

“*What Child Is This*” (English Ballad)

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed (381 AD)

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
and 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;
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.**

**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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped 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.**

PASTORAL PRAYER

MEDITATION ON THE STEWARDSHIP OF TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURE

**“His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.”**

[Luke 1:50-53, part of Mary’s Song of Praise]

MUSICAL OFFERING

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” (Rasley)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

Most Holy One, we approach the end of our Advent waiting. We give thanks today for the astounding gift of your Son, who has given us life, who is the Lord of our lives.

We know that the return of your Anointed One can happen at the most unexpected time, so we must always be doing the ministries he gave us to do. We know that we must be constantly confessing our sin and repenting, so that we will be ready. We know that we must reserve our adoration only for the One who is coming, and for you, and for your Holy Spirit. We know that you call us to faithful response even in the face of hardship and danger. Strengthen us, Holy Spirit, for these tasks, even beyond this Advent Season. Amen.

OUR LORD’S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
holy is 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

***CLOSING HYMN #146**

“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child” (Cantiones)

***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.