



CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

CALVARY Lutheran Church
480 MONTEREY AVE.
MORRO BAY, CALIFORNIA
Pastor Brian Stein-Webber

December 24, 2023
Fourth Sunday in Advent



PRELUDE**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS****Pastor Brian Stein-Webber****ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS****Pastor Mary Stein-Webber**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation.

Amen.

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Everlasting God,

you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation.

We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy.

Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways

for the sake of our waiting world.

Amen.

Hear these words of assurance:

God clothes you with garments of salvation
and covers you with robes of righteousness.

In the tender compassion of ✠ Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.

God's covenant is eternal,
and God's blessing rests upon us all.

Amen.

GATHERING It Came Upon a Midnight Clear #282 (red hymnal, rear section)

It came upon a midnight clear, that glorious song of old,

from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:

"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all-gracious king."

The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled

and still their heav'nly music floats o'er all the weary world.

Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov'ring wing,

and ever o'er its babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,

who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow:

look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;

oh, rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!

For lo! The days are hast'ning on, by prophets seen of old,

when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,

when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,

and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

GREETING

The grace of Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

KYRIE

Now the Feast and Celebration booklet p. 3

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world,
for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

For your people here who have come to give you praise,
for the strength to live your word, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, and defend us, O God.
A---men.

NOW THE FEAST AND CELEBRATION

NTFAC booklet p. 4

REFRAIN

**Now the feast and celebration, all of creation sings for joy
to the God of life and love and freedom;
praise and glory forevermore!**

**Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain,
whose blood has freed and united us
to be one great people of God.**

REFRAIN

**Power and riches, wisdom and might,
all honor and glory to Christ, forever.**
REFRAIN

**For God has come to dwell with us,
to make us people of God;
to make all things new.**
REFRAIN

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you!
And also with you!

Let us pray together.

**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. Amen.**

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

SONG **Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah #240 (verse 4)**
 (red hymnal, rear section)

**Light four candles to watch for Messiah; let the light banish darkness.
 He is coming, tell the glad tidings. Let your lights be shining!**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

FIRST LESSON: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

*(The congregation will read the **bold** words.)*

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him,
 the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar,
 but the ark of God stays in a tent."

Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

Go and tell my servant David:

Thus says the Lord:

Are you the one to build me a house to live in?

I have not lived in a house

since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day,
 but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle.

**Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel,
 did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel,
 whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying,
 "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"**

Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David:

Thus says the Lord of hosts:

I took you from the pasture,

from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel;

and I have been with you wherever you went,

and have cut off all your enemies from before you;

and I will make for you a great name,

like the name of the great ones of the earth.

And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them,

so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more;

and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly,

from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel;

and I will give you rest from all your enemies.

**Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house.
 Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me;
 your throne shall be established forever.**

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Mary, Did You Know?

Tom Anello

Second Reading: Romans 1 6:25-27*(The congregation reads the **bold** word.)*

²Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel
 and the proclamation of Jesus Christ,
 according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages
 but is now disclosed,
**and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles,
 according to the command of the eternal God,**
 to bring about the obedience of faith—
 to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever!

Amen.

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.**CHILDREN'S CONVERSATION****Gospel Acclamation****Celtic Alleluia #174****(red hymnal, rear section)****Alleluia, Alleluia.****Alleluia, Alleluia.****Gospel Lesson: Luke 1:26-38**

The gospel lesson for this Fourth Sunday in Advent is from the 1st chapter of the Gospel of Luke, beginning with the 26th verse.

Glory to you, O God.*(The congregation shall read the **bold** words.)*

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.

This is the gospel indeed!

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON HYMN The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came #265 (red hymnal, rear section)

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
with wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:
“All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favored lady.” Gloria!

“For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honor thee;
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
most highly favored lady.” Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
“To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said.
“My soul shall laud and magnify God’s holy name.”
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
in Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
“Most highly favored lady.” Gloria!

APOSTLE’S CREED

Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostle’s Creed.

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 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 THE PEOPLE

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God’s day of restoration.

A brief silence.

You promise mercy to Abraham and Sarah and their descendants forever. Bring your church into thoughtful, caring, and collaborative relationship with those of other faiths. Strengthen our shared values, that we work together in caring for our world. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

As fields and crops lie dormant, bless them with holy rest. Prepare them to thrive, that they provide abundant food in due season. Protect animals who hibernate and provide for all who scavenge for food in the lean season. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

You raise up the lowly and cast down the arrogant. Teach humility to all in positions of authority. Break down systems of oppression, especially systems that perpetuate inequity and exclusion. Do not allow wealth, power, or pride to become idols that obscure your call to justice. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Look with favor upon all who cry out to you. Accompany with tenderness all who are afraid or ill, or otherwise in need of our prayers, especially,

- Sean Cannoles – Nikki Rocha’s cousin – heart problems
- Katie Edson and family who lost their mother on November 28
- Joyce Bauer – recovering at home after recent hospitalization
- Elaine Grawe – relocating to be near her son
- Nancy Padilla – multiple dental procedures
- Becky Padilla – dealing with recurrence of cancer
- Robin Karas – Home from Bayside and recovering
- Christian – Heidi Carney’s son – dealing with multiple ailments
- Barbara Stein, Tom Anello’s sister – dealing with resurfacing cancer
- Jim Luke and family – in the death of his wife, Linda
- Wes, brother of John Cribb – Kidney issues
- Byron Nelson - friend of Jacoby's - Cancer
- Mike Johnson - lymphatic cancer
- Chris Senter – dealing with frontotemporal lobe dementia, starting a medication trial
- Heidi Carney – Puzzling spots in her lungs
- Kate Anderson
- Ina Davenport
- Aaron Brochtrup - for perseverance and patience while he works to recover from his injuries
- Denise Kenealy, daughter-in-law of Robin Karas – learning to live with condition
- Marcia Shep, Jennifer Kurrle's grandmother
- James Hecker- undergoing hyperbaric oxygen therapy for serious infection
- Iglesia Santa Cruz, Pastor Esteban and Angie- for our support of their ministry
- For those who are contracting COVID
- For an end to the war in Ukraine
- For the earthquake victims in Afghanistan
- For the people of Israel and Palestine
- Victims of senseless gun violence
- For Jack Senter who celebrates his birthday this week, and Joe & Angelina Rice who celebrate their wedding anniversary

Rescue all who experience abuse or who live under threat of violence, especially refugees, immigrants, and asylum-seekers in search of a safe and stable home. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

You are pleased to make your home among us. Make our homecomings joyful as we gather with friends, families, and chosen families in celebration. Grant safety to all who travel. Sustain the work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services and other ministries that assist in setting up new homes. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You know each one of us as well as all for whom we care, so we now pray for those whom we have not named yet, who are in need of our support and intercession, especially,

[You may name out loud or in your heart, those who are on your hearts, this morning.]

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Blessed are you for Mary and all your servants in every generation who lived according to your promise of mercy. Strengthen us by their example until the revelation of your glory is made known. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us share that peace with one another.

OFFERING SONG Create in Me a Clean Heart #186 (red hymnal, rear section)

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor Mary Stein-Webber

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

NTFAC booklet p. 11

**Holy, holy, holy are you, God of power and might;
heaven and earth are filled with your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in your name.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

On the night in which he was betrayed,
 our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it
 and gave it to his disciples saying,
 "Take and eat, this is my body given for you.
 Do this in remembrance of me."

Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and gave it to his disciples, saying,
 "Drink this, all of you. It is the new covenant of my blood,
 shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this in remembrance of me.'

Let us pray the prayer that our Lord Jesus taught us:

**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.**

TAKING OF HOLY COMMUNION

[All who desire may come forward to take the body and blood of Christ. Gluten-free bread is available if you ask for it, and alcohol-free grape juice is in the center ring of the tray. During the distribution of Communion, you may also seek prayers of healing at the chair by the baptismal font.]

COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THANKS BE TO YOU

NTFAC booklet p. 15

**Praise to you, O God of mercy: thanks be to you forever!
 Raising high the weak and lowly: thanks be to you forever!**

**From of old you loved and sought us: thanks be to you forever!
 Truth and justice you have taught us: thanks be to you forever!**

**Strong is your faithfulness, strong is your love,
 rememb'ring your covenant of life with us.**

**Praise to you, O God of mercy: thanks be to you forever!
 Raising high the weak and lowly: thanks be to you forever!
 Thanks be to you forever!**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together:

Generous God,

in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together.

Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim

your good news of liberation and release,

brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

BLESSING

The God of peace bless you,

the love of Christ sustain you in hope,

and the anointing of the Spirit ✝ remain upon you

now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN Angels from the Realms of Glory #275 (red hymnal, rear section)

Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;

once you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:

REFRAIN

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the new-born king.

Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,

God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light.

REFRAIN

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;

seek the great desire of nations, you have seen his natal star.

REFRAIN

All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son,

evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One.

REFRAIN**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Thank you to:

- **Gail Brochtrup** for being worship assistant.
- **Sandy McMillan and others** for counting the offering.
- **Joyce Bauer, Nikki Rocha and Kathie Sperow** for preparing communion.

- **Janet Lorenzo** and others for streaming worship.
- **Janet Lorenzo and Gail Brochtrup** for editing and assembling the bulletins and the newsletter.
- **Nancy Padilla**, for setting up and welcoming.
- **Gary and Mark Orback**, for tending to our outside property.
- **Sophia and Janet Lorenzo**, for tending to our inside property.
- **Ken Brocks, Dan Sperow, Andrew Jacoby, Mike Lorenzo and Gary Brochtrup** for their handyman work.
- **The Church Council**, for leading our congregation.

Events this week:

- **The discussion group on The Chosen** is on hiatus until January 7th, 2024.
- **Sermon Feedback and Feedforward** is on hiatus until January 8th, 2024.
- **Confirmation** is on hiatus until Monday, January 8th, 2024.
- **Bible Study** is on hiatus until January 3rd, 2024.
- The **Congregational Annual Meeting** will be on Sunday, January 14th after worship has ended.
- **Christmas Eve** Candlelight worship service will be tonight at 5:30 pm.
- **Christmas Day** worship will be tomorrow morning, Monday, December 25th at 10:00 am.
- **Epiphany Worship** will be on Saturday, January 6th, at 5:30 pm.
- Let Pastor Brian know if you would like to **start receiving his weekly emails**.
(bsteinwebber@gmail.com)

Don't forget to check the Calendar website page for upcoming events: morrobaylutherans.org