

10:00am Sunday, December 22, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Flowers given in memory of Ronald L Betts and
James & Flora Yoho.

**ENTRANCE HYMN *The angel Gabriel from
heaven came (Gabriel's Message) (H 265)***

**The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favored lady," Gloria!**

**"For know a bless'd 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 his 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!**

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid:
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly
love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

OPENING ANTHEM OR SONG OF PRAISE S 102 *Holy God (Archangelsky) (BCP p. 356)*



Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,

Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Micah 5:2-5a

A Reading from the book of the prophet Micah.

²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
 who are one of the little clans of Judah,
 from you shall come forth for me
 one who is to rule in Israel,
 whose origin is from of old,
 from ancient days.

³Therefore he shall give them up until the time
 when she who is in labor has brought forth;
 then the rest of his kindred shall return
 to the people of Israel.

⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
 in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
 And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
 to the ends of the earth;

^{5a}and he shall be the one of peace.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 16: The Song of Mary

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5-10

A Reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

⁵When Christ came into the world, he said,
“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;
⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.
⁷Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

⁸When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), ⁹then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

THE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
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:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**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.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped 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.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

With all our heart, mind, soul and strength, let us pray to the Lord, saying, “Lord have mercy.” For the church and all its ministers, and for St. John’s and its mission and ministry, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For our nation and all those in authority, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For peace throughout the world, especially in Gaza, Israel, Palestine, and Ukraine, and an end to all terrorism and violence, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all those in our armed forces at home and abroad, especially those from our families and community, and for all first responders, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all those infected with or at risk from the COVID virus, and for all health care and other front-line workers, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor and the oppressed, the unemployed and the destitute, for refugees, prisoners and captives, for victims of natural disasters, and for all who have asked for our prayers, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Good and gracious God, you invite us to recognize and reverence your divine image and likeness in our neighbor. We have promised that with your help we will strive for justice and peace among all people and will respect the dignity of every human being. Enable us to see the reality of racism and free us to challenge and uproot discrimination from our church, our society, our world and ourselves, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy**

For those who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;**

**that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. *Amen.*

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Communion From the Reserved Sacrament

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERTORY ANTHEM” Each Winter As the Year Grows Older *Carol of Hope* William Gay, b. 1920, Annabeth Gay, b. 1925 arr. Ron Schmoltz (c)2017 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

DOXOLOGY (Old Hundredth)
Praise God from who all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host:
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost

Deacon: Blessed are You, Lord God of all creation. Through Your goodness we have these tithes and offerings which are symbols of our life and labor; may they be used in Your Church for the work You have set before us for the furthering of Your Kingdom.

People: **Blessed be God forever.**

Deacon: Blessed are You, Lord God of all creation. Through Your goodness we have this Bread and this Wine which have been consecrated and have become for us the Body and Blood of Christ.

People: **Blessed be God forever.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN *I come with joy to meet my Lord (Land of Rest) (H 304)*

Unison or harmony

1 I come with joy to meet my Lord, for -
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to
3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each
4 And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, we'll

1 giv - en, loved, and free, in awe and won - der
2 find, as all are fed, the new com - mu - ni -
3 proud di - vi - sion ends. That love that made us
4 pres - ence, al - ways near, is in such friend - ship
5 go our dif - ferent ways, and as his peo - ple

1 to re - call his life laid down for me.
2 ty of love in Christ's com - mun - ion bread.
3 makes us one, and stran - gers now are friends.
4 bet - ter known: we see, and praise him here.
5 in the world, we'll live and speak his praise.

Let us pray.

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE GRACE

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and evermore. **Amen.**

People Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
 Thanks be to God.

POST-COMMUNION HYMN *Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord (Birmingham) (H 437). (On Next Page)*

Christmas Eve Services:

5:00pm Christmas Eucharist at *Trinity Church, New Castle*

8:00pm Christmas Candlelight Eucharist at *St. John's, Sharon*

Christmas Morning Services:

10:00am Christmas Day Eucharist at *Trinity Church, New Castle*

Hat and Glove Tree: The Love First Hat & Glove Tree is now up in the hallway by the Parish Office. All items are given to our ECS clients. Let's help make someone's winter a bit warmer this year!

Vestry Members

Senior Warden: John Kachursky

Junior Warden: Barb Sudzina

Clerk: Becky Yoho

Treasurer: Mark Perfilio

Members: Angie Lindsay, Heidi Marshall, Dick Steingrabe, Shane White.

1 Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of the Lord!
 2 Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of his Name!
 3 Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of his might!
 4 Tell out, my soul, the glo - ries of his word!

Un - num - bered bless - ings give my spi - rit voice;
 Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
 Powers and do - min - ions lay their glo - ry by.
 Firm is his prom - ise, and his mer - cy sure.

ten - der to me the prom - ise of his word;
 his mer - cy sure, from age to age the same;
 Proud hearts and stub - born wills are put to flight,
 Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of the Lord

in God my Sa - vior shall my heart re - joice.
 his ho - ly Name— the Lord, the Might - y One.
 the hun - gry fed, the hum - ble lift - ed high.
 to chil - dren's chil - dren and for ev - er - more!

POSTLUDE

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