



ORDER FOR WORSHIP

4th Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2020

God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

"Prepare the Royal Highway"

ELW 264

WELCOME

PRAYER

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

Gracious God, we honour your name. Our journey to the manger continues. There are many without shelter or a home and the winter temperatures will soon come upon us. Help us to prepare warm spots of hope for those individuals that they not only experience the warmth of Christ but the safety of a warm home. Preparing our hearts for the warmth of others, we worship you. Amen.

HYMN

(verses 1 - 4) ELW 715



Christ, Be Our Light



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.



Refrain
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957
 Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell
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BUILDING OF THE CRECHE

Each week in Advent we will add to the Creche as we prepare for the arrival of Jesus. The story, "Who is Coming to our House?" by Joseph Slate, will be read as we prepare for the arrival in the stable and in our hearts of someone special. This is the end of the story - the beginning of new life.

WORD

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

GOSPEL

Bible Bunch: A Very Kalba Christmas with: *A Message for Mary*

Luke 1:26-38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He 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. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The 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. ³⁶And 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. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then 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.

REFLECTION

CHOIR ANTHEM

"For Unto Us"

Natalie Sleeth

THANKSGIVING

*In everything
Give
Thanks.
1 Thessalonians
5:18*

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

SHARING of the PEACE

OFFERING

LORD'S PRAYER

CAROL "Joy to the World"

ELW 267



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748
 Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

SENDING

*God blesses
 us and sends
 us in mission
 to the world.*

BLESSING

DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE

"Go Tell it on the Mountain"

arranged by Patricia Cota Sanders





ST. PHILIP'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

SERVING TODAY

Rev. Tuula Van Gaasbeek	Minister
Chris Ritcey-Conrad	Music Director
Dave Pascoe	Videographer
Meranda Phannenhour and Dalia Yegavian	Bible Bunch
Katie Clark	Trumpet
An International Ecumenical Choir	Choir Anthem
Marleah Roche, Toby Jacksteit	Prayers of the People
Congregational Council	Lord's Prayer
Handbells Quartet	Postlude
Herb Feller	Aerial Footage

In our Prayers

The Savage and Binhammer families, Gus Berndt, Al Jacksteit, Mark Kieswetter, Fran Moore, Marion Morningstar, Pat Penney, Julie Potocny, Lesley Powell, Sydney Ross, Helen Scollnik, and Elga Smidt.

Ways to be involved

While we can't be in the building, there are still ways to stay involved and in community with others. Here are a few:

- Tuesday Bible Study via Zoom @ 7:00 pm
- Participate in the Virtual Worship: play an instrument or sing, read the Gospel, provide a Children's Message, lead the prayers, or tell a Faith Story. Please contact the office.
- Join in the Virtual Coffee Hour @ 11:00 am on Sunday mornings.

Pass the Offering Plate Please

Thanks for giving your offering regularly. Even while our doors are closed, our hearts and hands are open and busy. Our ministries need your support. Details for how to give are on stphilipstoronto.com/donate-now/.

December Services

- **Monday, December 21 @ 7:30pm:** Candlelit service, "Light in the Darkness". Join our livestream service on the longest night of the year.
- **Christmas Eve @ 5pm:** Candlelit Service of Carols will be livestreamed. The recorded service will then be made available to worship any time.
- **Christmas Day:** a Christmas meditation (virtual)
- **Ecumenical Service:** will be made shared after Christmas Day. The choir piece today is part of this service.