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



Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957 Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell.Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 And 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." $^{\mbox{\tiny 38}}$ 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.

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



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

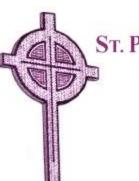
DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE

"Go Tell it on the Mountain"

arranged by Patricia Cota Sanders





St. Philip's Lutheran Church

SERVING TODAY

Rev. Tuula Van Gaasbeek
Chris Ritcey-Conrad
Dave Pascoe
Meranda Phannenhour and
Minister
Music Director
Videographer
Bible Bunch

Dalia Yegavian

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.