



# ORDER FOR WORSHIP

*4th Sunday of Advent*

*December 19, 2021*

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*Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."*

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## GATHERING

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

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### PRELUDE

"Come All Ye Shepherds", arranged by John F. Wilson

### LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We wish to acknowledge this land on which St. Philip's Lutheran Church is located. For thousands of years, it has been the traditional land of the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Haudenosaunee, and the Wendat peoples. We are grateful to have the opportunity to meet, worship, and serve on this land.

### WELCOME

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who alone does wonders,  
who lifts up the lowly,  
who fills the hungry with good things.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.  
God for whom we wait,

**in the presence of one another,  
we confess our sin before you.**

**We fail in believing that your good news is for us.**

**We falter in our call to tend your creation.**

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**We find our sense of self in material wealth.  
We fear those different from ourselves.  
We forget that we are your children  
and turn away from your love.  
Forgive us, Blessed One,  
and assure us again of your saving grace.  
Amen.**

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favour upon you!  
Through the power of the Holy Spirit, † your sins are forgiven.  
You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise,  
and recipients of divine mercy.  
God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.  
**Amen.**

### **GATHERING SONG**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

ELW 257 vs. 1, 7

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **INVITATION TO ADVENT**

Lighting of the Advent candle

Song “Light the Advent Candle”, vs. 4

Mary Lu Walker

A Meditation on Love

## **WORD**

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

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### **FIRST READING**

***Micah 5: 2 - 5a***

*The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.*

<sup>2</sup>But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,

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from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup>Therefore 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.

<sup>4</sup>And 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;

<sup>5a</sup>and he shall be the one of peace.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **CHOIR ANTHEM**

*“Waiting for a King”*

*Arr. Paul Williams, Joseph M. Martin*

## **GOSPEL**

***Luke 1: 39 – 55***

*Elizabeth, John’s mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth’s inspired greeting and Mary’s song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.*

The Bible Bunch, “Mary’s Song”

## **SERMON**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”*

ELW 254 vs. 1

## **CREED**

Together we affirm our faith.

**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,**

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and he will come to judge the living and the 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 INTERCESSION

Each petition ends: Hear us, O God.

Response: **Your mercy is great.**

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

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### SHARING OF PEACE

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

### DIALOGUE

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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

**We praise you, O God.**

Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

**We bless you, O God.**

We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

**We thank you, O God.**

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

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be 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.**

## **COMMUNION**

### **COMMUNION SONG**

*"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"*

*Arr. Carl Wiltse*

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

# SENDING

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

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## **BLESSING**

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
through Christ Jesus for whom we wait. **Amen.**

## **SENDING SONG**

“Come Now, O God”

ACS 902 vs. 1, 3

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is near.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

## **PERMISSIONS**

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## SERVING TODAY

Rev. Hilla Lahtinen	Presiding
Chris Ritcey-Conrad	Music Director
Marcia Powers-Dunlop	Worship Leader
Bryn & Nathan Pascoe	Advent Candle Lighting
Sarah Glinski	Advent Meditation
Jerry Hogeveen	Reader
Marcia Powers-Dunlop	Prayers
Les Piller	On-site Usher and Greeter
Meranda Phannenhour	The Bible Bunch
Dave Pascoe	Audio Visual
Karen Adolph	Livestream Usher

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### IN OUR PRAYERS

Gus Berndt, Kevin Cartwright, Rodney Erlandson, Al Jacksteit, Mona Kibsey, Mark Kieswetter, Matt Kirkpatrick, Fran Moore, Pat Penney, Julie Potocny, and Helen Scollnik.

### PASS THE OFFERING PLATE PLEASE

Thanks for giving your offering regularly. Our ministries need your support. Place your offering on the plate when you enter or leave today. Or find details for other options at [stphilipstoronto.com/donate-now/](http://stphilipstoronto.com/donate-now/).

### COMMUNION

Keep 6 feet apart with your mask on. Receive the bread then help yourself to an individual cup of wine. Put the empty cup in the containers provided. Replace your mask.

### SAFELY SINGING

Singing is good for our souls – and for spreading germs, unfortunately. Please ensure that your mask is securely on and join in the singing again.

### CHRISTMAS EVE

Watch your email on the 24<sup>th</sup> and follow the link to the online worship service for Christmas Eve. Worship at a time that works best with your tradition and welcome the Saviour's birth anew on this Holy night.



## ST. PHILIP'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

### THIS WEEK AT ST. PHILIP'S

Monday      Zumba Gold @ 1:00 pm  
Tuesday  
Wednesday  
Thursday  
Friday  
Saturday

### OUR VISION

*Freed by the grace of Christ, we seek to connect with God,  
neighbour and self.*

#### **VISION STATEMENT:**

We are a diverse and inclusive Lutheran faith community freed by the grace of Christ to find God and self as we connect with our neighbours. We **practise hospitality** of open hearts and open arms. We **unite with partners** to make a difference in our neighbourhood. We **nurture** the community of Christ.

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