

ADVENT IV MORNING PRAYER



December 20, 2020

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
515 Second Street | Woodland, California

Christmas is Coming to St. Luke's

We have prepared the way as best we can through this season of Advent. It has been an Advent like none we can remember. The truth is that we can't possibly be fully prepared, but every year we practice, because - ready or not - here comes the incarnate Christ into our lives.

This Advent is very different for all of us, as we try to slow the spread of coronavirus, and still it continues to claim more of our beloveds and change our lives in some unwelcome ways. Some of us are suffering, grieving tremendous losses. I pray that everyone who needs help will reach out and ask for it, because help is available.

On **Christmas Eve, Thursday, 12/24, 9:30pm**, we will celebrate Shared Home Communion. Communion bread will be distributed Wednesday, 12/23, from 4-6pm, in front of the red doors of the church, as usual.

On **Christmas Day, Friday, 12/25, 10am**, we will pray a brief service of Morning Prayer at 10am, with Christmas music.

We hope you'll come back again to worship with St. Luke's through the Christmas season, and beyond.

ORDER OF SERVICE & READINGS

Ring of the Bells

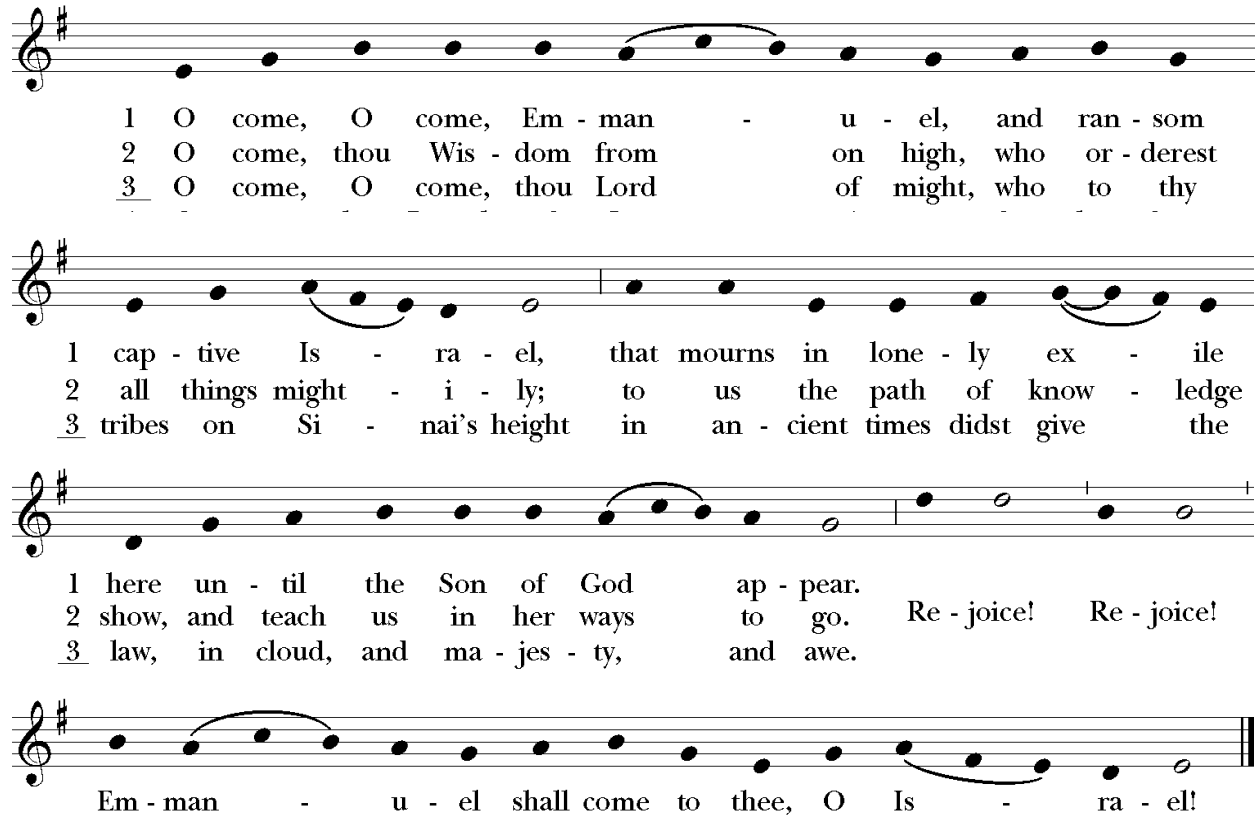
Organ Prelude

arr. Paul Manz, Hark, the Glad Sound

Welcome & Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Berryman, Godly Play

Opening Hymn O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, v. 1,2,3



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy

1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge
3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the

1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
2 show, and teach us in her ways to go. Re - joice! Re - joice!
3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.

Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Opening Sentence

Isaiah 45:8

Officiant Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness; let the earth open, that salvation may spring up, and let it cause righteousness to sprout up also.

Confession & Absolution

Enriching Our Worship I (EOW I), p. 19

Officiant Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept.

All God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us

through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

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

Versicle

Officiant O God, let our mouth proclaim your praise.
People **And your glory all the day long.**

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

Antiphon

Officiant Our God and Savior now draws near:
All **O come let us worship.**

Invitatory

Venite, Psalm 95:1-7

All **Come, let us sing to the Lord; *
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving *
and raise to the Lord a shout with psalms.
For you are a great God; *
you are great above all gods.
In your hand are the caverns of the earth, *
and the heights of the hills are yours also.
The sea is yours, for you made it, *
and your hands have molded the dry land.
Come, let us bow down and bend the knee, *
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For you are our God,
and we are the people of your pasture
and the sheep of your hand. *
Oh, that today we would hearken to your voice!
Let us listen today to God's voice:**

**Harden not your hearts, as your forebears did in the wilderness,*
at Meribah, and on that day at Massah, when they tempted me.
They put me to the test, *
though they had seen my works.
Forty years long I detested that generation and said, *
“This people are wayward in their hearts;
they do not know my ways.”
So I swore in my wrath, *
“They shall not enter into my rest.”**

Canticle 15

The Song of Mary, Luke 1:46-55

**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.
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.
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.
Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in
the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.**

Antiphon

Officiant Our God and Savior now draws near:
All O come let us worship.

The Lessons

Hebrew Scripture

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

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.

Canticle E

A Song of Jerusalem Our Mother, Isaiah 66:10-14

All **Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad for her ***
all you who love her,
Rejoice, rejoice with her, *
all you who mourn over her,
That you may drink deeply with delight *
from her comforting breast.
For thus says our God, *
"I will extend peace to her like a river,
the wealth of nations like an overflowing stream.
"You shall nurse and be carried on her arm, *
and you shall nestle in her lap.
"As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; *

**you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.
“You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice, *
you shall flourish like the grass of the fields.”**

Epistle

Romans 16:25-27

Now 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.

Canticle B

A Song of Pilgrimage, Ecclesiasticus 51:13-16, 20b-22

All **Before I ventured forth, even while I was very young, *
I sought wisdom openly in my prayer.
In the forecourts of the temple I asked for her, *
and I will seek her to the end.
From first blossom to early fruit, *
she has been the delight of my heart.
My foot has kept firmly to the true path, *
diligently from my youth have I pursued her.
I inclined my ear a little and received her; *
I found for myself much wisdom and became adept in her.

To the one who gives me wisdom will I give glory, *
for I have resolved to live according to her way.
From the beginning I gained courage from her, *
therefore I will not be forsaken.
In my inmost being I have been stirred to seek her, *
therefore have I gained a good possession.
As my reward the Almighty has given me the gift of language,*
and with it will I offer praise to God.**

Holy Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

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.

Homily

The Rev. Carren Sheldon

Hymn

Words: Moir A. J. Waters, Music: Robert J. Powell, Herald, Sound



1 Her - ald, sound the note of judg - ment, warn - ing us of right and
 2 Her - ald, sound the note of glad - ness; tell the news that Christ is
 3 Her - ald, sound the note of par - don— those re - pent - ing are for -
 4 Her - ald, sound the note of tri - umph; Christ has come to share our



wrong, turn - ing us from sin and sad - ness
 here; make a path - way through the des - ert
 given; God re - ceives his way - ward child - ren,
 life, bring - ing God's own love and pow - er,



till once more we sing the song.
 for the one who brings God near.
 and to them new life is given. Sound the trum - pet!
 grant - ing vic - tory in our strife.



Tell the mes - sage! Christ, the Sa - vior King, has come!

The Apostles' Creed

(EOW I), p. 41

All 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 again 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.

The Prayers

(EOW I), p. 42

Officiant Hear our cry, O God.
People **And listen to our prayer.**
Officiant Let us pray.

Help us, O God our Savior;
People **Deliver us and forgive us our sins.**

Officiant Look upon your congregation;
People **Give to your people the blessing of peace.**

Officiant Declare your glory among the nations;
People **And your wonders among all peoples.**

Officiant Do not let the oppressed be shamed and turned away;
People **Never forget the lives of your poor.**

Officiant Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you;
People **And your favor to those who are true of heart.**

Officiant Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;

People **So shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.**

Officiant 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.**

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Offerings of prayer and/or money are welcome at this or any time.

[Click here to donate: https://tithe.ly/give?c=409634](https://tithe.ly/give?c=409634)

Lord's Prayer

All **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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Blessing

Closing Hymn

Words: Franzen, tr. Price, Bereden väg för Svenska Kyrkan



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

Concluding Sentence

Ephesians 3:20, 21

Officiant Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

Postlude

Paul Manz, Prepare the Royal Highway, O Zion

Online Coffee Hour: all are welcome!

Grab your beverage of choice, and join us online for Zoom “coffee hour” immediately following Morning Prayer. This week’s host is LeAnn Herigstad.

What are you missing in this Advent?

Get Involved

Sign up at stlukeswoodland.org for weekly e-mail updates on opportunities to help and learn, or e-mail our Church Administrator at stlukechurchwoodland@gmail.com

Coffee Hour Hosts Invited | Sundays, 10-11:30am, via Zoom

Coffee hours after Sunday worship need Zoom hosts! Commit to bring a spirit of joy, admit participants into St. Luke's Zoom group and facilitate the conversation. For more information [email Margaret Wisehart](mailto:Margaret.Wisehart@gmail.com).

Book Study | Mondays, 5-6pm, via Zoom

Now studying Thich Nat Han's *Living Buddha, Living Christ*. For information, contact [Mairic](mailto:Mairic@gmail.com).

"The Way of Love" (Forward Movement) | Wednesdays, 7 pm, via Zoom

Gathering weekly for a short reading, reflection, and prayer. Drop-in as your schedule allows, purchase books online. [Contact Margaret](mailto:Margaret.Wisehart@gmail.com) for info &/or Zoom link.

St. Luke's Queer Alliance | Thursdays, 6:30 pm via Zoom

St. Luke's welcomes sisters, brothers and non-binary queers in search of a faith community that supports everyone's unique spiritual journey. Diversity isn't silenced but celebrated, belonging grows from the soil of respect, love, inclusion, commitment and joy. For more information, email Metamairic@gmail.com.

Inquirers' Group | Tuesdays, in January, February & March, 2021, 6pm, via Zoom

Explore and discuss the Episcopal Church, our teachings and questions. Participants who discern a call to the sacrament of Confirmation will be prepared. For information, contact Rev, Carren, interimrector@stlukeswoodland.org



*St. Luke's is steadfast
in its commitment to
full-inclusion for queer
folk in God's Church.*



**ST. LUKE'S
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH**
WOODLAND, CA

*We affirm God's love
for all of God's people.
You are welcome here.*

(530) 662-7152 | 515 Second Street, Woodland, CA 95695 | www.stlukeswoodland.org