

## WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

Fourth Sunday of Advent LOVE



### WELCOME FAMILIES!

We are glad that you are worshipping with your children and want you to feel welcome.

There is a “**Pray Ground**” for quiet play in the front right of the sanctuary. We ask that families stay with their little ones and try to keep noise to a minimum.

If you or your little one needs “a break” or “louder play”, there is an “**Active Worship**” room on the West side of the sanctuary. You can see and hear the service from this room.

### GATHERING



The Holy Spirit gathers us together during this time of worship

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*Inviting All to Live the Gospel through Faith, Love, and Compassion*

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### Welcome to Family of Christ

You are welcome to participate in worship this morning  
the way you feel comfortable.

**All Are Welcome, No Exceptions!**

**Everybody Is Somebody Here**

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### PRELUDE

### WELCOME

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Children of God, the arrival of the Promised One is almost here!

**We wait as people of God’s promise.**

The message of the prophets and the expectation residing in Mary’s womb call to us today.

**We listen as people of God’s promise.**

Mary’s “yes” and Elizabeth’s faithfulness guide our path, showing us that we too have a role to play in bearing God’s good news into the world.

**We follow as people of God’s promise.**

This is the promise Mary, Elizabeth, and the prophets bore that we continue to carry even today—God is with us!

**God is with us! We are not alone. Thanks be to God!**

### GATHERING HYMN

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” vv. 1-4 ELW #257

### ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Reader One: When the people were looking for deliverance, the prophet Micah declared, “But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah... from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient day.” (Micah 5:2). But what if Micah is also talking to us, proclaiming, “But you, O Family of Christ, from you shall come forth for me...” What? What might God be calling forth from us?

**Congregation: God invites us to receive the promise of God’s salvation and the sustenance of God’s mercy and grace, enabling us to live the promise as God-bearers to the world. As Christ was born in Bethlehem, so too we answer God’s invitation to have Christ born among us today and every day.**

Reader Two: We light this candle of love as a sign of our commitment to live as people of God's promise, a promise of salvation and flourishing for all people that springs forth from God's love for all creation.

## SONG OF WAITING

**"O Come, All Ye Faithful" vv 1-3 ELW #283**

## HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER

**Service of Light p.2**

**Evening Hymn p.2**

**Thanksgiving p.3**

**Psalmody, Readings and Canticles p. 3**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let Us Pray. God of the impossible and unlikely,  
**God of pregnant old women and virgins,  
you turn our conventional world upside down,  
where the hungry are fed,  
and arrogant rich are turned away.  
Instill in us unthinkable marvels.  
Make us pregnant with wonder  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God for ever and ever. Amen**

All young and young at heart are invited forward during the Children's time.

## CHILDREN'S TIME

### FIRST READING

**Micah 5:2-5a**

<sup>2</sup>But 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.

<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.

L: The Word of our Lord C: **Thanks Be to God**

## THE WORD

God speaks to us through  
scripture reading,  
preaching, and song.



## GOSPEL READING

**Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)**

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

<sup>46</sup>And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the LORD,

<sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup>for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

<sup>49</sup>for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup>His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

<sup>52</sup>He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

<sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

<sup>55</sup>according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

L: The Good News of our Lord C: **Thanks Be to God**

## SERMON

**Pastor Brent Erler**

**The Annunciation p. 7**

**The Magnificat p.7**

**Litany and Prayers p.8**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**NOISY OFFERING**

**Family of Christ Community Fund**

## OFFERING

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: Lord, in Your Mercy

C: **Hear our prayers**

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Family of Christ



## THE MEAL

God feeds us with the forgiveness and presence of Christ.

All are invited to receive these gifts of God.

No Exceptions!

Children are welcome to come forward and receive communion or a blessing and Goldfish Crackers.



## THE SENDING

We are blessed and sent out into the world to share God's Love with all people.



## Serving Today

Pastor

Brent Eler

Musicians

Kim & Steve Wolff

Sound and Video

Donny Bergquist

\*Thanks to all those who helped make worship possible.

## COMMUNION

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

### BLESSING

Final Blessing p.9

### PRAYER OF GOOD COURAGE

Lord God, you have called your servants  
to ventures of which we cannot see the ending,  
by paths as yet untrodden,  
through perils unknown.  
Give us faith to go out with good courage,  
not knowing where we go,  
but only that your hand is leading us  
and your love supporting us,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### CLOSING HYMN

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

ELW #289

### POSTLUDE

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Join us for a candlelight service  
Christmas Eve  
Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
at 4:30pm.

# FamilyofChrist

FAITH, LOVE, and COMPASSION

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