

**ADVENT** | *The season of Advent, a season of waiting, is designed to cultivate our awareness of God's actions – past, present, and future. In Advent we hear the prophecies of the Messiah's coming as addressed to us – people who wait for the second coming. In Advent we heighten our anticipation for the ultimate fulfillment of all Old Testament promises, when the wolf will lie down with the lamb, death will be swallowed up, and every tear will be wiped away.*

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## prelude

BROOKE LEWIS

*As the music plays, please quietly prepare your heart and mind for worship, lifting your thoughts up from the cares of this world.*

*Angels We Have Heard on High* – Traditional, arranged by Dennis Alexander

*The First Noel* – From W. Sandys' *Christmas Carols* (1833), arranged by John Carter

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## preparing our hearts

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

– Luke 1:46-48 ESV

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## \*\* call to worship

*Leader:* Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

**All:** **He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.**

*Leader:* He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength.

**All:** **They who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength;**

*Leader:* They shall mount up with wings like eagles;

**All:** **They shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.**

– From Isaiah 40:28-31 ESV

*Leader:* They shall call his name Immanuel

**All:** **Come, Lord Jesus! God, be with us!**

\*\* Please stand if you are able

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;  
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels; \*

*\* Chorus:*

O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

God of God, Light of Light;  
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb:  
Very God, begotten, not created; \*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:  
"Glory to God all glory in the highest!" \*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning:  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; \*

Words & Music: John Francis Wade. Public Domain.

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**\*\*prayer of invocation**

*Leader:* Lord God, our eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel. Shine in our midst this morning, Heavenly Father, and fix our eyes to Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, by the strength and encouragement of your Holy Spirit, who is our secure deposit for what is yet to come. For the sake of your Son, Christ Jesus, we pray. Amen.

– Based on Luke 2:30-32

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## advent reading & candle lighting

ABBEEY & JACOB JENNINGS, MOLLY & LARRY BROWN

*The fourth Advent Candle color is purple, standing for the sovereignty of Christ, and demonstrating the reception of the coming King. It is called the Angel Candle or the Candle of Love.*

**The Readings** | Zephaniah 3:14-17 and James 5:7-9,11 ESV

*Leader:* This is the word of the Lord.

**All:** **Thanks be to God.**

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## \*\* hymn of praise

### COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,  
Dear Desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee, Day-spring from on high, appear;  
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of thy birth we long to hear!  
O'er the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth:  
"Go to him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Come to earth to taste our sadness, he whose glories know no end;  
By his life he brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.  
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;  
This the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,  
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
By thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley (vv. 1&4) & Mark Hunt (vv. 2&3); Music: Rowland Hugh Pritchard. Public Domain.

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

*Leader:* When Jesus was born of the virgin Mary, he became like us in all things but sin. May we who have been reborn in him be free from our sinful ways.

– From *The Worship Sourcebook*

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**All:** O God, in the beginning you spoke, and creation was born, the object of your loving care. In the fullness of time you spoke, and the Word became flesh, Jesus, gift of your love. We wonder at the miracle of creation; we stand in awe before the mystery of the incarnation. Forgive us earthbound creatures, feeble in faith, empty of hope, lacking in love. This year let the miracle and mystery of Christmas happen for us again. We wait upon you with ready hearts, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*Please reflect and silently confess your sins.*

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL \*\*

**All:** O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
From depths of hell thy people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Day-spring from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Key of David, come and open wide our heavenly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Words: Latin hymn, trans. by John Mason Neale; Music: Thomas Helmore. Public Domain.

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## ASSURANCE OF GRACE \*\*

*Leader:* When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.

– Galatians 4:4-5 NRSV

**All: Thanks be to God!**

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## musical offering

JOEL & ELIZABETH McDOW  
ACCOMPANIED BY BROOKE LEWIS

*While this musical response is sung, reflect on its lyrics, prayerfully contemplating the beauty of God's plan of salvation.*

### O HOLY NIGHT – ADOPLHE ADAM

*O holy night! the stars are brightly shining, it is the night of the dear Saviour's birth;  
Long lay the world in sin and error pinning, till he appeared, and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!  
Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices! O night divine!  
O night, when Christ was born! O night divine, O night, O night divine!*

*Led by the light of faith serenely beaming, with glowing hearts by His cradle we stand;  
So, led by light of a star sweetly gleaming, here came the wise men from the Orient land.  
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger, in all our trials born to be our friend;  
He knows our need, He guardeth us from danger; behold your King!  
Before the lowly bend! Behold your King! Before the lowly bend!*

*Truly He taught us to love one another; His law is Love and His gospel is Peace;  
Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother, and in his name all oppression shall cease,  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful Chorus raise we; let all within us praise his Holy name!  
Christ is the Lord, then ever! ever praise we! His pow'r and glory,  
Evermore proclaim! His pow'r and glory, evermore proclaim!*

*Leader:* Micah 5:2-5  
This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

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prayer

*An officer of the church prays for the world, nation, community, and church.*

*Leader:* All these mercies we ask in the name of Jesus, who prayed saying,  
**All: Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be your name;  
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors,  
Do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil,  
For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, Amen.**

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\*\* passing the peace

*Leader:* Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.” In a world filled with trouble, let us encourage one another to look to the one who has overcome the world. May the peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

While your preschool children are welcome and encouraged to worship with you, at this time they can be dismissed for an age-appropriate worship for ages 3–5.

If you would like to hear more about CPC or would like to let us know of a prayer need, please include your contact information or prayer request in the welcome pad when it comes around to you.

*When instructed, greet those around you, saying, “The peace of Christ be with you.” When the music begins, please be seated and prepare yourself for the hearing of God’s Word.*

Series | “Scandalous Grace”

Sermon | “Mary”

December 22, 2019

**From Matthew 1** <sup>NIV</sup> | 1 This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah... 3 Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar... 5 Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth... 6 David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah’s wife... 16 Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called the Messiah... 17 Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Messiah.

**Luke 1:26–45** <sup>ESV</sup> | 26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” 29 But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. 30 And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 32 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 father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

34 And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

35 And the angel answered 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 called holy – the Son of God. 36 And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God.” 38 And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

39 In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, 40 and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41 And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, 42 and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! 43 And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. 45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

*Leader:* This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**



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## \*\* affirmation of faith

*Leader:* Christian, do you believe and trust in God the Father, who because of his great love did send his only begotten Son to take on flesh in union with mankind?

**All:** **We believe and trust in him.**

*Leader:* Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who graciously represented mankind before the Father in perfect obedience and in perfect atonement, reconciling us to God?

**All:** **We believe and trust in him.**

*Leader:* Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who mercifully breathes life into those dead in sin, that they might know the Father and believe the Son unto salvation?

**All:** **We believe and trust in him.**

*Leader:* This is the faith of the Church.

**All:** **This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

*Minister:* The Lord be with you.

**All:** And with your spirit.

*Minister:* Lift up your hearts.

**All:** We lift them up to the Lord.

*Minister:* Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

**All:** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

*Minister:* It is very good and right, our duty and privilege, to at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify your glorious Name; evermore praising you, and singing,

**All:** (*singing Gloria Patri*)

Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be-  
gin-ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with-out end. A - men, a - men.

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## WELCOME TO HIS TABLE

*The Lord's Supper is a family meal for Christians — a time when we delight in Christ and in the good news that His work alone has made us right with God. All baptized Christians who trust in Christ alone as their Savior, belong to a church that embraces the gospel, and seek strength to live more faithfully to Christ are invited to participate. If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, please use this time to meditate on the following prayer.*

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

*Please remain seated for communion. As a symbol of our unity in Christ, wait until everyone has been served the elements, and we will all partake together. Once you are finished with your cup, please pass it to the inside aisles and the ushers will retrieve them.*

*If you have a gluten allergy, there are gluten-free wafers available in the center of the bread trays. During the celebration of communion, we will reflect during the passing of the bread and sing the printed hymn during the passing of the cup.*

**NOTE TO PARENTS:** *To receive communion, a child must have been baptized, publicly professed their faith in Christ, and been formally received as a communing member by the elders of this church or the governing body of the church to which you belong. We look forward to welcoming your children to the table when they come to this point and ask that you speak to the pastor when you feel your child is ready to begin the process of becoming a communing member.*

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## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

– Matthew 26:26-29 ESV

*Minister:* Let us pray.

**All:** We do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But it is your right, O God, to give mercy to whom you please. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink of him, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood; that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

*Minister:* The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*As the bread is distributed, examine your heart and reflect on the meaning of this supper, that you would take it in a worthy manner.*

*As the cup is distributed, sing as one body, affirming that in Christ we are united to him and to one another.*

## LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;  
Ponder nothing earthly-minded, for with blessing in his hand  
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood;  
Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood.  
He will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,  
As the Light of Light descendeth from the realms of endless day,  
That the powers of hell may vanish, as the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-wingèd seraph; cherubim, with sleepless eye,  
Veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry:  
“Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord Most High!”

Words: Liturgy of St. James, trans. by Gerard Moultrie. Music: Traditional French Carol. Public Domain.

GOD REST YE MERRY GENTLEMEN

God rest you merry gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,  
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day,  
To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray,  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heavenly Father, a blessed angel came;  
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same:  
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

“Fear not then,” said the angel, “Let nothing you affright,  
This day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,  
To free all those who trust in him from Satan's power and might.”  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind,  
And left their flocks afeeding, in tempest, storm, and wind,  
And went to Bethlehem straightway, the Son of God to find.  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

Words & Music: Traditional English carol. Public Domain.

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**announcements**

*Please note the announcements found on Pages 17-20 of your bulletin.*

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**\*\* benediction**

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**\*\* doxology**

**All: Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below  
Praise him above ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**