

## The Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 20, 2020

### CALL TO WORSHIP & ADVENT CANDLES | *John 1*

READER In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

ALL **He was in the beginning with God.**

READER All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.  
In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

ALL **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

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 saints Thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.

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.

### CONFESSION OF SIN *based on John 1*

ALL **The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way.**

### SILENT CONFESSION

### 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:

*O come let us adore Him,  
O come let us adore Him,  
O come let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;  
Glory to God, all  
glory in the highest

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,  
born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father  
now in flesh appearing

### GRACE ASSURANCE *based on John 1*

LEADER To all of you who receive your savior, and believe in the name of Jesus, He has given you the right to become children of God— not born through a blood line, or through the will of your flesh, or by the will of someone else, but born of God.

ALL **The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

## SILENT NIGHT

Silent night! Holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright,  
Round yon virgin mother and child!  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories streams from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia."  
Christ the Savior is born,  
Christ the Savior is born.

Silent night! Holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace.  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Silent night! Holy night!  
Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
With the angels let us sing,  
Alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born,  
Christ the Savior is born.

## LIFE OF THE CHURCH

## COLLECTION OF TITHE AND OFFERINGS

## PASSING THE PEACE & WELCOME TABLE

## MESSAGE - *Behold: The Humility of Jesus - Luke 2*

## CONFESSION OF FAITH | *Belgic on the Incarnation*

**ALL** We profess that God fulfilled the promise that he had made to the early fathers by the mouth of his holy prophets when he sent his only and eternal Son into the world at the time set by him. The Son took the "form of a servant" and was made in the "likeness of man," truly assuming a real human nature, with all its weaknesses, except for sin; being conceived in the womb of the blessed virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit, without male participation. And he not only assumed human nature as far as the body is concerned but also a real human soul, in order that he might be a real human being. For since the soul had been lost as well as the body, he had to assume them both to save them both together. In this way he is truly our Immanuel—that is: "God with us."

## LORD'S SUPPER | *1 Corinthians 11:23-26*

The Lord Jesus, on the night when he was betrayed took bread and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

## PRAYER OF PREPARATION

**ALL** Father, today I come to your table, to partake of Christ's body and blood in holy communion. I ask that you would search my heart and show me my failings and sins, that I may repent and turn to embrace your promises anew. Although I am unworthy, you have made me worthy. Though I am a sinner, you have taken away my sins by your very own body and blood. May you be glorified in our partaking of your sacrament. In Jesus name, Amen.

## PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

*Jesus, you are my greatest desire. You alone satisfy my longings. Today I cannot come to the Lord's Supper with my church family, where you promise to be in a special way. I long to return to your table. I still come to you in faith, along with all your people across the world who are facing the same longing. I turn from all false loves and false trusts, and commune with you spiritually. Lord, thank you for your promise that nothing can separate us from your love: neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature. Amen. partaking of your sacrament.*

## BENEDICTION Isaiah 40:28–31

*Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
The LORD is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
He does not faint or grow weary;  
his understanding is unsearchable.  
He gives power to the faint,  
and to him who has no might  
he increases strength.  
Even youths shall faint and be weary,  
and young men shall fall exhausted;  
but they who wait for the LORD  
shall renew their strength;  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;  
they shall run and not be weary;  
they shall walk and not faint.*