

**DECEMBER 20, 2020**

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Welcome and Announcements

PRELUDE

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Leader: May your hearts be filled with joy as you hear the song of Mary, the Mother of Jesus.

People: Thanks be to God.

*Reading for the Fourth Sunday of Advent from Luke Chapter 1*

*Lighting the Advent Candle of Joy*

*Responsive Prayer (unison)*

Gracious God, we cry alleluia and sing songs of joy because of Mary, the mother of Jesus. Blessed is she among women, blessed is the fruit of her womb, our savior Jesus Christ, and blessed are we because of Mary's faithfulness. Thanks be to you, O Lord. Amen.

HYMN #114            O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

#PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison):

Loving God, at this most wonderful time of the year, with the time of our Savior's birth only five days away, we have gathered to stir up the flame of joy in our hearts. There are so many reasons to rejoice and be glad, but sometimes we need a reminder of what those reasons are. Come to us now and fill us with happiness and peace as we reflect on the greatest reason of all to rejoice at Christmas: the miracle of your Incarnation, and how, because Mary said "yes" to you when she was asked, you were able to express your immeasurable love for the world through the birth of Jesus. May we have the kind of faith Mary had so we too, can say "yes" to you. We ask these things in the name of Christ the Lord, who taught us to pray like this, saying. . .

#PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR (Unison)

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

#GLORIA PATRI (Unison):

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
And to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning,  
Is now and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen.

## SPECIAL MUSIC

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Psalm 89:1-4, 19-28 and Luke 1:26-38

SERMON MESSAGE: *Mary Said Yes* Rev. Gagnon

## PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Prayer Requests  
 Silent Prayer  
 Pastoral Prayer

## BLESSING OF OUR OFFERINGS

#Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

Gracious God, this is the time of year when a special kind of joy fills our hearts and inspires generosity and compassion for those in need. We have been moved by the spirit of Christmas to share with you a portion of our treasure so the good news of Christ's birth can be proclaimed, and your love can be made known to others through the ministries of our church. Just as Mary said "yes" to you so that Emmanuel might come into the world, we also say "yes" by offering these gifts of time, talent and treasure to help tell the world about Emmanuel. Please bless and use what we have given to accomplish your will and to further Christ's mission of reconciliation and healing in the world. Amen.

HYMN #134 *Joy to the World!*

BENEDICTION (Responsive):

Pastor: Sometimes our Christmas spirit can get buried under reams of wrapping paper and bundles of packages.

People: It is common to put colorful lights, ornamented trees and gift swapping at the center of our celebration during this time of year.

Pastor: But thanks to Mary's "yes," the true spirit of Christmas is a child lying in a manger under a star-lit Bethlehem sky, who is Emmanuel—God with us.

People: As the day of Jesus' birth draws closer, may we experience the wondrous joy of the coming of our Emmanuel, God with us, which Mary's faith made possible.

Pastor: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

POSTLUDE

DISMISSAL