



Second Sunday of Advent  
December 6, 2020  
8:30am

## Welcome to Zumbro Lutheran Church!

In case you don't know, "Do not be afraid!" is the most frequent command in the Bible – by far. With the beginning of Advent, we start reading from the Gospel of Luke. We will follow the story through Holy Week, Easter, and beyond. You are invited to join the story of Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary and Joseph, and others as they are invited to play a role in God's story of salvation. And of course, they are encouraged to "not be afraid" as they do. It's a timeless word. We need it today just as much as ever.

After telling the story of how Zechariah and Elizabeth's lives have been upended by her late-in-life pregnancy, this week Luke shares more surprising news: Another unexpected baby is on the way. But where Elizabeth's child is received as a blessing for a couple who had long since given up on the dream and hope of becoming parents, for a young, unmarried virgin this word could be more scandalous and shameful. And yet Mary receives Gabriel's pronouncement with acceptance, and perhaps a determination that one step at a time, she will practice joy as she lives into her new identity as the mother of God's son.

PRELUDE

REPRISE: E'EN SO LORD JESUS, QUICKLY COME  
KRISTY GIERE, ORGAN

PAUL MANZ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

# LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

## SONG

### WE GATHER 'ROUND

LYRICS BY REV. ELANA KEPPEL LEVY

TUNE: THE FIRST NOWELL

**We gather 'round celebrating our joy  
Thanking God for the mercies You daily employ.  
We may sin and fall away; from the path we may roam,  
But you tenderly guide us and welcome us home.**

*Refrain:* **The candles glow, showing us God's light,  
Calling us forward, united in Christ.**

**We gather 'round to worship the child  
Whose miraculous life helps us be reconciled.  
Reconciled with God and with each other, too.  
In his glory he brings us a life that's renewed.** *Refrain*

## GREETING

**L:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C:** **And also with you.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

### CHRIST IS COMING, EVER COMING

RICHARD BRUXVOORT-COLLIGAN

*Songleaders:*

1. In the beginning was the Word, God and with God.
2. Unless a seed would fall and die, it stays but one seed.
3. God of beginnings, God of ends, oh make us your love.



*All:*

Christ is com - ing, ev - er com - ing, com-ing a - gain.

*Songleaders:*

1. From the beginning it was life, the light for all people.
2. But if the seed is broken now, more will abound.
3. Oh may your people be your life, the light for all people.



*All:*

Christ is com - ing, ev - er com - ing, com-ing a - gain. Christ is



com - ing, ev - er com - ing, com - ing a - gain.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Stir up your power, O Lord, and come.

**C: Come to our weary world, where joy can be in short supply. We are tired and need your energy. We are uninspired and need your imagination. We are overwhelmed and need your possibility. Like your messenger Gabriel brought a new future for Mary, may the story of the incarnation birth joy in our hearts. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE SONG

*sing twice*

## EMMANUEL

BOB MCGEE

Em-man - u - el, Em-man - u - el, His name is called

Em-man - u - el: God with us, re - vealed in us!

His name is called Em - man - u - el.

"EMMANUEL"  
By Bob McGee  
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## HOLY GOSPEL

LUKE 1:26-38 NRSV

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered<sup>e</sup> what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>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. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>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. <sup>36</sup>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. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>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.

L: The Gospel of the Lord,

**C: Thanks be to God.**

JANETTE REEVES AND SAM SIMATAA

Unexpected and mysterious  
is the gentle word of grace.  
Everloving and sustaining  
is the peace of God's embrace.  
If we falter in our courage  
and we doubt what we have known,  
God is faithful to console us  
as a mother tends her own.

In a momentary meeting  
of eternity and time,  
Mary learned that she would carry  
both the mortal and divine.  
Then she learned of God's compassion,  
of Elizabeth's great joy,  
and she ran to greet the woman  
who would recognize her boy.

We are called to ponder myst'ry  
and await the coming Christ,  
to embody God's compassion  
for each fragile human life.  
God is with us in our longing  
to bring healing to the earth,  
while we watch with joy and wonder  
for the promised Savior's birth.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: We pray for the ministry we share in Christ's name. Open our hearts to your call for justice, peace, and healing. Attune us to the needs of the world as you draw near.

*After each petition the congregation responds:*

L: Hear us, O God,

**C: Your mercy is great.**

L: Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## SHARING OF PEACE

*Those with smart phones are encouraged to text a message of peace to someone in your life.*

## RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

## EXPRESSIONS OF GRATITUDE

## STIR UP YOUR POWER

JANETTE REEVES AND SAM SIMATAA

RUSTY EDWARDS AND

LINDA CABLE SHUTE

Stir up your pow'r, O Lord, and come. Again we pray, "Your will be done."  
May Advent blue to us foretell the echo of Emmanuel.

Is heaven's moment far or near? And when will Jesus reappear?  
The coming dawn is our delight in this, the darkest hour of night.

We could inside the church remain, like dry ground watching for the rain.  
We could decide to sit and wait as Jesus we anticipate.

But we must keep hands to the plow; God's time is not yet and now.  
Our faith informs what shall do. May Christ return and find us true.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## LORD'S PRAYER

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO SHARE THE MEAL

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L: Gracious and abundant God, you have done great things for us, and we rejoice.  
In this bread and cup you give us life forever. In your boundless mercy, strengthen us  
and open our hearts to the world's needs, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## BLESSING

L: The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you  
with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, † now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

HYMN

AWAKE! AWAKE, AND GREET THE NEW MORN

**Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn,  
for angels herald its dawning.  
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born,  
behold! the Child of our longing.  
Come as a baby weak and poor,  
to bring all hearts together,  
he opens wide the heav'nly door  
and lives now inside us forever.**

**To us, to all in sorrow and fear,  
Emmanuel comes a-singing,  
his humble song is quiet and near,  
yet fills the earth with its ringing;  
music to heal the broken soul  
and hymns of lovingkindness,  
the thunder of his anthems roll  
to shatter all hatred and blindness.**

**Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,  
though dark the winter and cheerless,  
the rising sun shall crown you with light,  
be strong and loving and fearless.  
Love be our song and love our prayer  
and love our endless story;  
may God fill ev'ry day we share  
and bring us at last into glory.**

SENDING

L: People of Zumbro, what is our mission?

**C: Our journey of faith leads us to build bridges of understanding and peace, to reach out with compassion, and to share the hope of Jesus. Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

TRUMPET TUNE ON "WACHET AUF"

KRISTY GIERE, ORGAN

MARTHA SOBAJE

**MATT HAFAR'S CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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**CONGRATULATIONS TO:**

Elaine and Arleigh Anderson on their 69<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

**PRAYERS FOR HEALING:**

Marion Alborn    Jane Anderson    Nira Flaten    Donna Hanson    Liam Kiefer  
Mike, Nicole, Dylan, Norah, Carly Moravec    Mavis Scheurle    Melissa Stortz

**SYMPATHY TO:**

Merlin (Karen) Ricklefs on the death of his brother, Virgil Ricklefs.  
Phil Quanbeck (Ruth Johnson) on the death of his father, Phillip Quanbeck I.  
Lester (Dianna) Horntvedt on the death of his sister, Arlene Beck.  
Edee Thurber on the death of her husband, Del Thurber.

**TODAY'S RADIO BROADCAST IS GIVEN BY:**

Elva McFarlin in loving memory of her husband, Bob.

**WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY**

**PROCLAIMER**-Pastor Shelley Cunningham; **WORSHIP ASSISTANT**-Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner;  
**LECTOR**-Rich Vetter; **STORYTIME**-Jen Gruendler; **ORGANIST and PIANIST**-Kristy Giere;  
**SINGING**-Sam Simataa, Janette Reeves



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Our journey of faith leads us to build bridges of understanding and peace to reach out with compassion, and to share the hope of Jesus.  
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