



Third Sunday of Advent
December 13, 2020
8:30am

Welcome to Zumbro Lutheran Church!

With the beginning of Advent we are reading from the Gospel of Luke. We follow the story of Jesus through the calling of disciples, to his ministry in Galilee, to the drama and passion of Holy Week. Over and over the characters in the story are encouraged to “not be afraid.” It’s a word we need now as much as ever.

In this week’s reading Mary comes to visit her cousin Elizabeth. It turns out that both women are pregnant, but under some very different circumstances. Mary and Elizabeth have an important role to play in God’s story of salvation. They choose love as the embodiment of that salvation for people far and near.

PRELUDE

MY SOUL PROCLAIMS YOUR GREATNESS (KINGSFOLD)
HANDBELL QUARTET

ANNE KRENTZ ORGAN

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 with love in our hearts,
Seeking blessings for all though we're so far apart.
Apart, but in God's great mystery.
We are joined in a love that is flowing and free.**

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: Transform us with your grace. Fill our hearts with your love, especially when love is hard to find. Work in us that which is well-pleasing in your sight, and lead us in the way of salvation. 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 1:39-45 NRSV

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

["And Mary said,"]

SONG

THE MAGNIFICAT (MY SOUL PROCLAIMS)
EMILY SCHMIDT, SOLOIST

LUKE 1:46B-55,
FROM *BEHOLD OUR LIGHT*,
MUSIC FOR EVENING WORSHIP
BY AARON DAVID MILLER

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit sings for joy in God my Savior.
You look with favor upon your servant, blessed is my name.
You have done great things for me, holy is your name.
You send your mercy to those who fear you through every age.
You have shown the strength of your arm, you have scorned the thoughts of the proud,
You cast down the mighty, you have lifted the lowly, holy is your name.
You have filled the hungry with good things, you have left the rich with empty hands,
You have come to the help of your people, holy is your name.
You have kept your promise of mercy, the promise that you made to our forebears;
To Abraham and Sarah and their children forever, holy is your name.

["And Mary remained with Elizabeth about three months and then returned to her home."]

L: The Gospel of the Lord,

C: Thanks be to God.

STORYTIME

JANETTE REEVES

SERMON

DO NOT BE AFRAID TO CHOOSE LOVE

PASTOR VERN CHRISTOPHERSON

HYMN

HE CAME DOWN

**He came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
hallelujah forevermore.**

**He came down that we may have light;
he came down that we may have light;
he came down that we may have light;
hallelujah forevermore.**

**He came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace;
hallelujah forevermore.**

**He came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy;
hallelujah forevermore.**

APOSTLES' CREED

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

BAPTISM OF MILES MATTHEW HANLEY

Child of Kate and Matthew Hanley

Sponsors: Allison Heil, Megan Palmer, Paul Ivers

EXPRESSIONS OF GRATITUDE JESUS CHRIST, THE APPLE TREE

A VIRTUAL ANTHEM BY THE ZUMBRO LUTHERAN CHOIR

SIMON ANDREWS

The tree of life my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit and always green:
The trees of nature fruitless be
Compared with Christ, the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel:
By faith I know, but ne'er can tell
The glory which I now can see
In Jesus Christ, the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought,
And pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all; but now I see
Tis found in Christ, the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
It keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be
With Jesus Christ, the apple tree.

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.

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.

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

ALL EARTH IS HOPEFUL



1 All earth is hope-ful, the Sav-ior comes at last!
 2 Peo-ple of Is-rael, you heard the proph-et tell:
 3 Moun-tains and val-leys will have to be pre-pared;
 4 We first saw Je-sus a ba-baby in a crib.



Fur-rows lie o-pen for God's cre-a-tive task: this, the
 "A vir-gin moth-er will bear Em-man-u-el"; she con-
 new high-ways o-pened, new pro-to-cols de-clared. Al-most
 This same Lord Je-sus to-day has come to live in our



la-bor of peo-ple who strug-gle to see how
 ceived him, "God with us," our broth-er, whose birth re-
 here! God is near-ing, in beau-ty and grace! All
 world; he is pres-ent, in neigh-bors we see our



God's truth and jus-tice set ev-'ry-bod-y free.
 stores hope and cour-age to chil-dren of this earth.
 clear ev-'ry gate-way, in haste, come out in haste!
 Je-sus is with us, and ev-er sets us free.

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

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING
HANDBELL QUARTET

ARR. SONDRRA K. TUCKER

PRAYERS FOR HEALING:

Marion Alborn Jane Anderson Nira Flaten Donna Hanson Liam Kiefer
Mavis Scheurle Melissa Stortz

SYMPATHY TO:

Paul Grinde (Deb Jacobson) on the death of his sister, Marian Grinde Watson.
Debra (John) Dalin on the death of her father, Conrad Nelson.
Deb Lien (Dale Norell) on the death of her father, Elmo Lien.
Dale Norell (Deb Lien) on death of his sister, Marian Norell.
Merlin (Karen) Ricklefs on the death of his brother, Virgil Ricklefs.
Lester (Dianna) Horntvedt on the death of his sister, Arlene Beck.
Phil Quanbeck II (Ruth Johnson) on the death of his father, Phillip Quanbeck I.

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

PROCLAIMER-Pastor Vern Christopherson; **WORSHIP ASSISTANT**-Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner;
LECTOR-Melanie Tschida; **STORYTIME**-Janette Reeves; **ORGANIST and PIANIST**-Kristy Giere;
SINGING-Emily Schmidt, Janette Reeves, Zumbro Lutheran Choir, Bob Giere, director; Todd Christensen,
virtual choir anthem producer; **HANDBELL QUARTET**-Paul Bye, Pam Hammond, Andy Larson, Sue Schwartz

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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.

(507) 288-2649 | www.zumbrolutheran.org • 624 Third Ave. SW | Rochester, MN 55902