



Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 20, 2020
8:30am

Welcome to Zumbro Lutheran Church!

With the season 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.

The birth of the Christ child is quickly approaching. Fear is giving way to hope and love and joy, and soon, peace. Today, we come to the conclusion of Zechariah’s story in Luke 1, and hear how his promised son, John, is the last of the great prophets who will prepare the way for salvation. The one coming will cast away our fear and lead us in the way of peace.

PRELUDE

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER
COREY HENKE, HORN; SUSAN HENKE, PIANO

ARR. BETHANY BRINTON

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 so weary for peace
Hearing anger and distrust that will not cease.
Not cease 'til the day we reach out with grace
And see each as God's child for us to embrace.**

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.

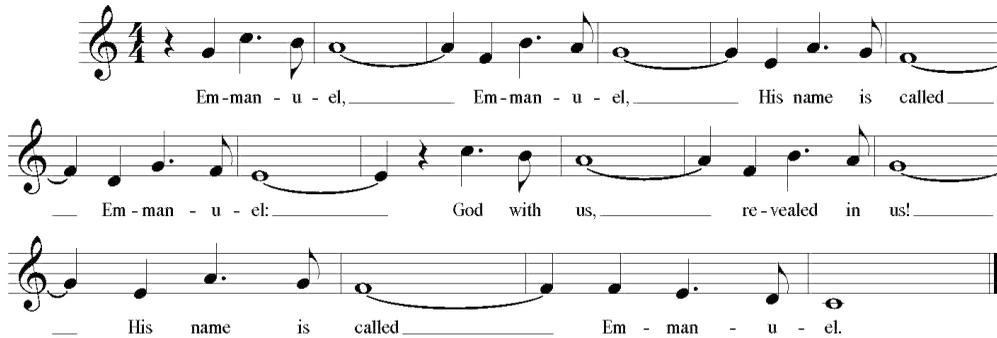
C: Come into the chaotic places of our world and bring your peace. Come into the fearful places of our hearts and bring your peace. Come into the shattered relationships in our lives and society and bring your peace. Stir up your power, O Lord Christ, and come. Come quickly. Amen.

SCRIPTURE SONG

EMMANUEL

BOB MCGEE

sing twice



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
©1976 C. A. Music
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HOLY GOSPEL

LUKE 1:57-67, 76-79 NRSV

⁵⁷Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. ⁵⁸Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. ⁵⁹On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. ⁶⁰But his mother said, "No; he is to be called John." ⁶¹They said to her, "None of your relatives has this name." ⁶²Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. ⁶³He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And all of them were amazed. ⁶⁴Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. ⁶⁵Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. ⁶⁶All who heard them pondered them and said, "What then will this child become?" For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

⁶⁷Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:

⁷⁶And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, ⁷⁷to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. ⁷⁸By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, ⁷⁹to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

L: The Gospel of the Lord,

C: Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE

BLESSED BE THE LORD, THE GOD OF ISRAEL

DALE WOOD

JENNY KRUSE, SOLOIST

FROM MORNING PRAYER (MATINS),
LUTHERAN BOOK OF WORSHIP

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty Savior, born of the house of his servant David.
Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant.
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship him without fear,
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.
In the tender compassion of our God, the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

SERMON

DO NOT BE AFRAID TO BRING PEACE

PASTOR JASON BRYAN-WEGNER



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,
 3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that
 bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -
 prom - ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -



have deem - er, and that fu - ture years shall see,
 deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,
 pect - ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord



ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more. A - men.

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

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.

EXPRESSIONS OF GRATITUDE

PREPARE THE ROYAL HIGHWAY

JENNY KRUSE, SOLOIST

SWEDISH FOLK TUNE, 14TH C.,

ARR. JOHN FERGUSON

Prepare the royal highway; The King of kings is near!
Let every hill and valley a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's Word!

God's people, see him coming; Your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you!
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's Word!

His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding:
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's Word!

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

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

Refrain

**Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!**

**While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. *Refrain***

**The shepherds feared and trembled
when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain***

**Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain***

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

WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS

COREY HENKE, HORN; SUSAN HENKE, PIANO

ARR. DANIEL KELLEY

PRAYERS FOR HEALING:

Marion Alborn June Davis Donna Hanson Liam Kiefer Mavis Scheurle

SYMPATHY TO:

The Family of Dorothy Pesek.

Emily (Bill) Buck on the death of her sister, Kristy Karau.

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

PROCLAIMER-Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner; **WORSHIP ASSISTANT**-Pastor Shelley Cunningham;

LECTOR-Rebecca Nesse; **STORYTIME**-Jen Gruendler; **ORGANIST and PIANIST**-Kristy Giere;

SINGING-Jenny Kruse; **SONGLEADERS**-Meredith Pritchard, Janette Reeves; **INSTRUMENTAL**-Corey Henke, horn; Susan Henke, accompanist

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