

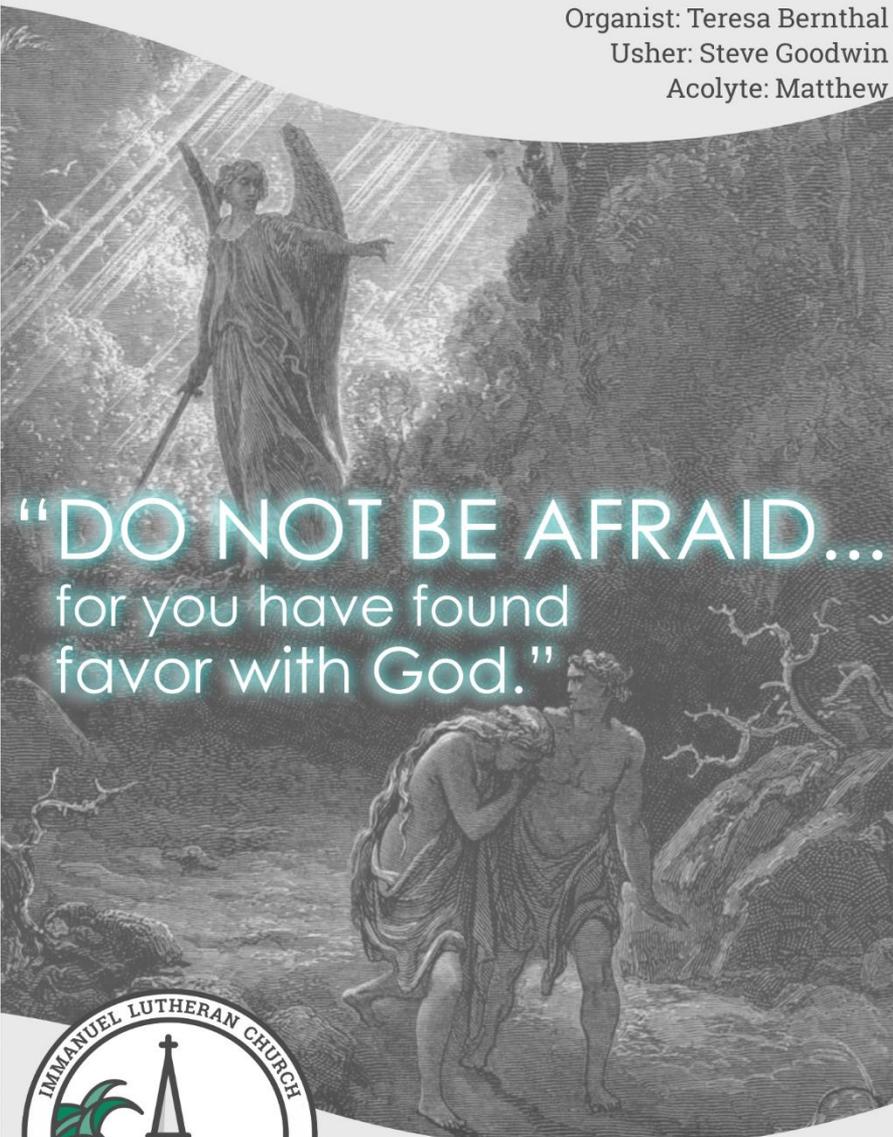
December 24, 2017

Advent 4

Organist: Teresa Bernthal

Usher: Steve Goodwin

Acolyte: Matthew



“DO NOT BE AFRAID...
for you have found
favor with God.”



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PRE-SERVICE MEDITATION

Ps. 89:1-5

¹ I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations. ² For I said, "Steadfast love will be built up forever; in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness." ³ You have said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: ⁴ 'I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations.'" Selah ⁵ Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD, your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!

✠ Order of Divine Worship ✠

OPENING RESPONSIVE PSALM

Ps. 19:1,4-6; Is. 45:8

- P** Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness; let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit.
- G** **The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims His handiwork.**
- P** In them He has set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,
- G** **And, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.**
- P** Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them, and there is nothing hidden from its heat.
- G** **Glory be 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.**
- P** Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness; let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit.

OPENING HYMN: TLH #95:1-4

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

- P** In the name of the Father , and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- G** **♫ A - - - men.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

We come before God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

- P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C *♩* **Who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

C *♩* **And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.**

P Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **O most merciful God, who hast given Thine only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He gives power to become the sons of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C *♩* **A - - - men.**

GLORIA PATRI

Latin for "Glory be to the Father"

The musical score for the Gloria Patri is presented in two systems. Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The first system covers the lyrics: "Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;". The second system covers the lyrics: "as it was in the be-gin-nig, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line with chords that support the vocal melody. The vocal line includes various note values such as quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, along with rests and a final fermata.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Luke 3:4b, 6

Alleluia. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel. Alleluia.

THE KYRIE

Latin for "O Lord." We approach our Lord with a cry for help in all the needs of our life.

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P Let us pray . . . through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C A - - - men.

OLD TESTAMENT READING – 2 Samuel 7:1-16 Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, ² the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." ³ And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you." ⁴ But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, ⁵ "Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in?' ⁶ I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. ⁷ In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"" ⁸ Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. ⁹ And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰ And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹ from the time that I appointed judges over my people

Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹⁶ And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever."

EPISTLE READING – Romans 16:25-27 Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶ but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith-- ²⁷ to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

P This is the Word of the LORD.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

The Apostles' Creed is a summary of Christian faith as taught by the Apostles. We boldly confess what God has taught us to believe.

**I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

HYMN: TLH #60

"Hark, a Thrilling Voice is Sounding"

During the singing of this hymn, the fourth Advent candle will be lit. This is the Angel's Candle, of which you can read about on the back page of the bulletin.

SERMON – Luke 1:26-38 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored *one*, the Lord *is* with you; blessed *are* you among women!" ²⁹ But when she saw *him*, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. ³⁰ Then the

angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. ³² "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. ³³ "And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" ³⁵ And the angel answered and said to her, "*The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.* ³⁶ "Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. ³⁷ "For with God nothing will be impossible." ³⁸ Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Rejoice, You Highly Favored One!

I. Rejoice! For you need not fear

II. Rejoice! For your King is near



OFFERTORY

In this prayer we OFFER God our hearts, asking Him for that best of all gifts, the Holy Spirit.

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -

new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -

way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it

from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
 tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

SERMON HYMN: TLH #66

“Hark the Glad Sound!”

- OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS -

Followed immediately by the Offering Hymn printed on the next page:

OFFERING HYMN: TLH #438:4

“Almighty Father, Heaven...”

4. We, Lord, would lay at Thy behest
 The costliest offerings on Thy shrine;
 But when we give, and give our best,
 We give Thee only what is Thine.

PRAYER, LORD’S PRAYER, and BENECTION

P The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

C Amen, amen, a – men.

CLOSING HYMN: TLH #76

“A Great and Mighty Wonder”

✠ Announcements ✠

Thank you! On behalf of your called workers, I’d like to offer a heartfelt thank you for your generosity towards us this Christmas season. It is truly a privilege to serve this congregation, and we thank God for you all. Thank you for everything you do to show us support!

The January Schedule has been rearranged. Due to Pastor’s planned absence on January 7th, communion will be moved to January

21st. Relating to this, we will also be moving the normal fellowship snack to the 21st. And to include those who can normally only attend on a communion Sunday, the Quarterly Voters' meeting and Ladies of Immanuel will also meet on January 21st.

Poinsettias have been placed in memory of: Noah Rodebaugh, Jaxson Goodwin, Papa Scott, Grandpa Sherman, Mikaila, Alec Ream, Bud & Betty Ream, Lewis Ream, Becky Sapp, and all of our loved ones, both friends and family.

Looking Ahead...

- ✚ **Tonight:** Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 pm
- ✚ **Dec. 25:** Christmas Day Service at 10:15 am
- ✚ **Dec. 31:** Board of Ed
- ✚ **Jan 1-11:** Pastor out of Town
- ✚ **Jan. 7:** Trustees and Council
- ✚ **Jan. 21:** Communion, Fellowship Snack, Voters Meeting, Ladies of Immanuel

Last Week (12/17) Winter Haven – 43 | Wed. – 18

General = \$1,120.07 | CLC Missions = \$10 | Property Improvement = \$10
| Petty Cash = \$30 | **Total Offering** = \$1,282.07

December Usher: Goodwin | **Acolyte (12/31):** Mason G.
| **Cleaner (12/30):** Ream

The Advent Wreath

The advent wreath is rich in symbolism, and as such it aids our worship as it reinforces our hope in the ultimate coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The wreath is covered with evergreen. Just as the species of tree is always green, so our hope for eternity is always alive because it rests upon the living Christ. The wreath is also in the form of a circle, which has no beginning and no end. What better way to picture that our life with God is everlasting.

The lighted candles are symbolic of the light of Christ and His Gospel, which alone can lift us out of our sin and spiritual darkness. The 4 candles surrounding the center candle remind us of the 4000 years of waiting for Christ by the Old Testament world. Each of the candles has been assigned a special name with special significance.

The Angel's Candle is lit the 4th week of Advent. It reminds us of the activity of the angels before and after Jesus' birth, bearing messages, ministering, protecting, praising; they will be with Jesus at His final coming on Judgment Day, to gather the nations.