

CALVIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 20, 2020
Lessons and Carols

Prelude

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Mighty God, your faithfulness is magnified in the coming of your Son, in the long-awaited birth of the promised Messiah. May we, like Mary, proclaim your greatness, and treasure and ponder all these things in our hearts; and may we, like the shepherds, go into the world glorifying and praising you for all we have heard and seen; as we rejoice in our Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Lesson (Responsive)

Isaiah 9:1-4, 6-7

"But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish...but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

"The people who walked in the darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined.

"You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;

"For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

"For a child has been born for us, a son given to us...and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.

"He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore."

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; the one who follows me will not walk in darkness but have the light of life."

We light these candles as a sign of the present and coming light of Christ.

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord!

Make a highway in the desert for our God."

Lighting of the 1st candle

From ages of old, no ear has heard, no eye has seen one so glorious as the Lord our God, for whom we wait.

Lighting of the 2nd candle

Every valley shall be lifted, every mountain and hill, made low; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed.

Lighting of the 3rd candle

God's anointed one is coming – to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and to announce the time of the Lord's favor.

Lighting of the 4th candle

The promise of the Lord is sure; the realm of God will be established forever.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

Those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined.

*readings are from *John 8:12, Isaiah 40:3, Isaiah 64:4, Isaiah 40:4-5, Isaiah 61:1-2, 2 Samuel 7:16, Isaiah 9:2*

Carol

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
The Presbyterian Hymnal, #2

Second Lesson

[Isaiah 11:1-9](#)

Carol

O Come, O Come Emmanuel
Glory to God Hymnal, #88 vv. 1, 4, 7

Third Lesson

[Micah 5:2-4](#)

Carol

O Little Town of Bethlehem
The Presbyterian Hymnal, #44

Fourth Lesson

[Matthew 1:18-25](#)

Special Music

Joseph's Song
Dave Pak

Fifth Lesson

[Luke 1:26-38](#)

Special Music

Hallelujah
Josh Cameron

Sixth Lesson

[Luke 2:1-7](#)

Carol

Once in Royal David's City
The Presbyterian Hymnal, #49

Minute for Mission

[Christmas Joy Offering](#)
Lillie Koney, Mission Committee

Offering

Luke 1:37

"For nothing will be impossible with God."

Please prayerfully consider the time, talents, or gifts you have received, and how you can give them back to God in love and service to others.

Prayer of Dedication and the Prayers of the People

**adapted from Rev. Roger Gench, Presbyterian Outlook Order of Worship for the 4th Sunday of Advent, 2020*

Incarnate God, as you have given us yourself in Jesus Christ, receive and accept our gifts as sign of our offering of ourselves to you. May they be used to further the promise of hope, peace, love, justice, and righteousness in our communities and in our world. And empower us, O God, to follow these gifts into the world around us so that they, and we, might become heralds of your Good News, knowing that nothing is impossible with you.

God, you lift up the lowly and fill the hungry with good things. You supplant ruthless competition with generosity in which all have enough. You envision a world in which all but especially those we esteem as lowly, the least thought of, the marginalized, the oppressed, the poor, the neglected, and the discounted are restored to their rightful place as bearers of your image. In this season of Advent, help us discern the places where you are coming to us to repair and renew your good yet groaning creation. By the power of your Spirit at work in our lives, liberate us from chronic selfishness and cynicism so that we might discover our capacities for compassion and the pursuit of justice. Help us to see ourselves and others as bearers of your image — as people who reflect your light.

Help us also to live according to your Great Commandment: to love you with our whole being, and to love others as ourselves. Help us to trust that your future is struggling toward realization even now in our midst, and for this Christ has come. Empower us to be courageous in word and deed, courageous in both being a voice for those without when needed, but also in stepping back to make space for the voice of others — and give us the wisdom to discern the times. Give us ears to hear hopes and fears so that together we might restore your world on the foundation of the justice and righteousness you intend for us in Christ.

Into your hands we place those who weigh heavily upon our hearts this week: a world, and a nation groaning under the continued weight of a pandemic that has taken so much from so many; those facing violence in their neighborhoods, homes, and countries; healthcare and frontline workers who are serving selflessly during this pandemic; those experiencing loss during this time — loss of loved ones, loss of health, loss of income, loss of security; leaders who are discerning new ways forward and plans for how to help those they govern in this challenging time; for all for whom this time of year is often more a reminder of what was rather than a promise of what will yet be; and for congregations and ministries who are now finding new ways to worship and serve during this Advent and Christmas season; and for all those we name in our hearts and on our tongues before you now...

We pray all these things in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray saying: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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 forever. Amen.

Seventh Lesson

[Luke 2:8-14](#)

Carol

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
The Presbyterian Hymnal, #38

Eighth Lesson

[Luke 2:15-20](#)

Carol

O Come All Ye Faithful
Calvin Presbyterian Church Virtual Choir

Commission and Benediction

Do not be afraid, for God is with you. Do not fear, for the light of God shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it. Treasure these words; ponder them in your heart. And go out praising God for all you have heard and seen.

Carol of Response and Sending

Go, Tell It on the Mountain
The Presbyterian Hymnal, #29