



Fourth Sunday of Advent

“Helping others receive grace, purpose and direction by proclaiming Christ’s love.”

17 East 27th Street
Scottsbluff, NE
(308) 632-8023
calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org

Sunday Morning Worship
10:00 a.m.
December 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent

A Warm Welcome to all as we gather as God's people to worship our Lord. We pray our worship together would strengthen your faith and desire to know and serve the One who loves us with an everlasting love as made known to us in Jesus Christ.

*Visitors, if you are worshipping with us today,
we are glad to have you with us. Please join us again soon!*

KEY: ELW and any page number = Worship hymnal (cranberry),
OSB = Other Song Book (red), W&P = Worship & Praise (purple).

* Indicates please stand if able. Congregational responses are printed in **BOLD** type.

Prelude Music

Welcome and Announcements

‡WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS‡

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Every year we light candles as we prepare for the coming of Christ. More and more candles, more and more light, as we watch and wait for Jesus, the Light of the World.

God of Promise, come into our darkness. Renew your hope, your peace, your joy and your love in us in us, for you alone bring life out of death.

Receive God's promise of hope from Psalm 36: Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds. Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your judgements are like the great deep. You save humans and animals alike, O Lord.

How precious is your steadfast love, O God! All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights.

(Light the Candles of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love)

Candle Lighting Song:

"The Messiah"

vv. 3

**Someone's shouting I am broken. Someone's shouting make me whole.
Someone's shouting come and change me. Someone's shouting save my soul.**

Chorus: Messiah, Come and be our King. (repeat)

Welcome Song:

**“Celebrate Christmas”
(with “O Come, All ye Faithful)**

Choir/Congregation

**1. O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the king of angels:**

Refrain: **O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!**

**3. Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
in the highest: *Refrain***

***Confession of Sins and Assurance of God’s Forgiveness**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the minister begins.

Jesus said, Do not let your hearts be weighed down by the sins and worries of this life, but watch and pray for the grace of God, who will save you in your time of trial. With confidence in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin.

(Time for reflection and self-examination)

Light of the world,
Your patience with us is never ending. You have shown us wonders, yet we are so often complacent. You have showered us with mercy, yet we withhold mercy from others. You have given us everything, and we act as though we were entitled all along. Forgive us these and all our secret sins. You know our hearts; we implore you to make us whole again. Amen.

As the world darkens, the light of Christ shines even brighter. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the forgiveness of sin and walk in the light of Christ. May our hearts overflow with gratitude at the gift of God’s mercy, and may we also be merciful in our turn. In the name of Christ. **Amen.**

***Greeting**

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

And also with you.

***Prayer of the Day**

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

‡GOD'S WORD SPEAKS TO US‡

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11

¹Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." ³Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I 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 and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" ⁸Now 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 to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and 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. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 89:1-4

¹Your love, O LORD, forever will I sing;
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

**²For I am persuaded that your steadfast love is established forever;
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.**

³"I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

**⁴I will establish your line forever,
and preserve your throne for all generations.'"**

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

²⁵Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation:**

"Emmanuel"

W&P #36

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
His name is called Emmanuel;
God with us, revealed in us;
His name is called Emmanuel.**

(Repeat)

***Gospel: Luke 1:26-38**

Response after the announcement of the gospel:
Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

³⁰The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.
³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him
Jesus. ³²He 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. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob
forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” ³⁴Mary said to the angel, “How can this
be, since I am a virgin?” ³⁵The 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. ³⁶And 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.
³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸Then 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.

Response after the gospel reading:
Praise to you, O Christ.

Kids Sermon:

Angie Hinze

Sermon:

Pastor George Kilmer

(Silence for Reflection and Meditation.)

‡WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD‡

***Song of the Day:**

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

**ELW #264
vv. 1&4**

**1. Prepare the royal highway;
the King of kings is near!
Let ev’ry 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!**

**4. His is no earthly kingdom;
it comes from heav'n 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!**

***Profession of Faith: The Apostles Creed**

**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.**

***Prayers of the Church:**

Each petition ends with:

Merciful God,....receive our prayer.

The prayers conclude with:

... Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy. **Amen.**

***Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

(You are invited to share the peace of Christ with one another)

Offering

Tahnee Hutchinson

***Offertory Prayer**

God our provider,

by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

‡HOLY COMMUNION‡

Here our Lord gives to us His own Body and Blood for the forgiveness of all our sins.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

***Words of Institution**

***The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be 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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever, and ever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together.

Come, take your place at the table.

Distribution of Communion:

Christ is truly present in the Lord's Supper with gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation.

All are welcome and invited to receive Holy Communion.

(Communion will be served continuously at two stations in the front of the church.

WHITE GRAPE JUICE and GLUTEN FREE WAFERS are available. Just ask the server.

Children who are not yet communicants are invited to come forward for a blessing.)

Distribution Music

Tahnee Hutchinson

*Post-Communion Prayer

Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

‡WE DEPART TO SERVE‡

*Benediction

The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit ‡ remain upon you now and forever.

Amen.

*Sending Song:

“O Come, O come, Emmanuel”

ELW #257

vv. 1,3&5

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

*Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.*

3. O come, O come, O Lord of might,
as to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times you gave the law
in cloud, and majesty, and awe. *Refrain*

**5. O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. *Refrain***

***Dismissal**

Go in peace. Keep awake.
Thanks be to God.

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Music: O Come, All Ye Faithful Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4; tr. unknown, st. 2, ©Public Domain; **Emmanuel:** CCLI Song # 12949 Bob McGee © 1976 C.A. Music (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.) For use solely with the SongSelect Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License #1825044; **Prepare the Royal Highway:** Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772-1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.OneLicense.net #A-705226; **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel:** Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. Composite Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress CCLI License #1825044

In Our Thoughts and Prayers†

Ruth Harris (recovery from a fall), **Jan Martin** (health problems—Susan Martin's relative), **David Pickett** (Healing—son of Virginia Pickett), **David Stevens** (recovering), **Joy Arnold** (Cancer), **Joni** (stage 4 cancer), **Aimee Roos** (colon cancer & critical kidney disease—Penny Stevens' nephew's wife), **Kathy Johnson** (health issues), **William Gibbs** (Cancer—brother of Larry Gibbs), **Vicki Schmidt** (cancer treatment), **Linda Spomer**, **Catherine Rahrs** (Val Rahrs' mother), **Patty** (cancer—Jim Dorn's sister-in-law).

Prayers for comfort and safety: **Jeffery Christeleit** (deployed—Brian & Jodi Christeleit's son and Jim & Sheila Miller's grandson).



Wes Sell 12/25; Sid Henderson, 12/26; Vicki Schmidt, 12/26;
Alec Sibal, 12/26; Kathy Johnson, 12/27; Tracy Steele, 12/28

If we have missed your birthday, please let the office know. Thanks.



YOUR GIVING ONLINE

Scan the **QR code** to the right, go to our website: www.calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org and click on the **Give Online** button OR download the **Vanco Now App** on your smartphone. It's safe and secure.



SCAN ME

DECEMBER FOOD DONATIONS REQUESTED

FOOD PANTRY: Packaged Cookies

BACKPACKS: Applesauce

Containers are located outside Fellowship Hall.

Thanks for your generosity.



Thank you

Thank you to all of you for your support of the Angel Tree. You are giving these special little angels a wonderful Christmas this year by purchasing gifts and donating money to purchase gifts. God Bless you all!



Endowment Fund application forms are now available in the office. These funds may be used for outreach: Churchwide, Nebraska Synod, and local. The deadline is January 31, 2024.



ELCA GOOD GIFTS *How it works*

- 1** Choose your gift.
- 2** Get a card.
- 3** Change lives.

Give an unexpected gift this Christmas. Gifts that grow the church, fight hunger, and transform lives. Meaningful gifts for everyone on your list. See the bulletin board next to the Fellowship Hall or visit <https://goodgifts.elca.org/> for your gift options.



**JAM & EPIC on Christmas Break until
January 10, 2024**



WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor George Kilmer

This Sunday – December 24

USHERS: Monty & Shari Copsey
LAY READER: Marti Wegelin
HEAD COMMUNION ASST: Shari Copsey
COMMUNION ASSTS: Tracy Steele & Chris Thomas
POWERPOINT: Andi Dorn
ACOLYTES: Kippen & Jacey Cochran
MEDIA: Jeff Van Patten
AUDIO: Jim Dorn
ALTAR GUILD: Deb Brown, Vicki Howell, Tracy Steele, Shari Copsey
PIANIST/ORGANIST: Tahnee Hutchinson
COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP: *Please sign up!*

Christmas Eve – December 24

5:30 P.M. Service

USHERS: Monty & Shari Copsey
LAY READER: Chris Jensen
HEAD COMMUNION ASST: Jack Martin
COMMUNION ASSTS: Barb Jensen & Abby Newsom
POWERPOINT: Andi Dorn
MEDIA: Maunette Loeks-Van Patten
AUDIO: Jeff Van Patten
ORGANIST: Tahnee Hutchinson

Next Sunday – December 31

USHERS: Rick & Lynn Margheim
LAY READER:
POWERPOINT: Maunette Loeks-Van Patten
ACOLYTE: Jack & Max Judy
MEDIA: Chris Jensen
AUDIO: Jeff Van Patten
ALTAR GUILD: Andi Dorn, Shelly Koehler
PIANIST: Dee Brady

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, December 24

Christmas Eve

10 a.m. – Worship
11 a.m. – Coffee & Fellowship in Fellowship Hall
5:30 p.m. – Christmas Eve Service (livestreamed)

Monday, December 25

Merry Christmas

Office Closed

Tuesday, December 26

1 p.m. – Quilting

Wednesday, December 27

NO JAM, Confirmation or Choir

Saturday, December 30

NO WORSHIP

Sunday, December 31

New Year's Eve

10 a.m. – Worship
11 a.m. – Coffee & Fellowship in Fellowship Hall

DECEMBER 24, 2023 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Mary finds favor through God's love.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Luke 1:26-38	The birth of Jesus foretold
Monday	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16	The Lord's message to David
Tuesday	Romans 16:25-27	Paul's closing prayer
Wednesday	1 Corinthians 13:1-13	The gift of love
Thursday	Psalms 36	Wickedness and God's goodness
Friday	1 John 4:16-21	God is love
Saturday	Psalms 89:1-4, 19-26	God's promise to David
Sunday	Luke 2:22-40	Jesus presented in the temple

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus." Luke 1:30-31 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Everlasting God, your ways are unsearchable and your love never ending; give us the faith to trust in your Son, child of Mary, and Savior of the World. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this gift of food; give us faith and courage to speak of your steadfast love to all generations. In Jesus' name, amen. (Psalms 89:1)

A Blessing to Give:

May God's grace bless you with faith and love.



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For a larger printable 'Taking Faith Home' go to our website calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org

DECEMBER 24, 2023 HYMN OF THE WEEK *Love Has Come*



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- If an angel appeared and told you something, would you believe it? Why or why not?
- How does God's love influence your life?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 1:26-38.

When God's love showers down upon us, it can really turn our lives upside down. That's certainly what happened to Mary. The angel Gabriel announced that she was favored by God and would bear a son who would inherit the throne of King David. Mary was given promises that would seem hard to believe, let alone understand. She was perplexed, to say the least. She had no husband in her community bearing a child without a husband was nothing less than shameful. Bearing a child in those days was one of the most dangerous events that could happen to a woman. Being ostracized by her neighbors, looking at the prospect of pain, and the possibility of death does not seem like divine favor. This is a story filled with risk, danger, confusion, extreme drama, and surprise. Amid it all, Mary responds with her own act of trust and love and says, "Let it be with me according to your word" (v. 38). Mary is the embodiment of a faithful disciple, one who trusts the amazing love of God for her and for all.

Discuss: Do you think Mary's response to Gabriel is surprising?

Pray: All knowing God, help us to receive your undeserved kindness with courage and love through Jesus Christ, child of Mary, your son and our savior. Amen.

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you share the good news of Jesus' birth with someone?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The scripture readings during Advent point to Jesus. This week we light all four candles on the Advent wreath. The fourth candle is the candle of love. Psalm 89 is a praise song to God for all creation: "I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations." Think or talk about the ways we respond to God's great love for us through Jesus.

Light the first candle of hope, the second candle of peace, the third candle of joy, and the fourth candle of love and say: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." (John 1:5)



In addition to Taking Faith Home, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org