

# Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025

\* *Please stand if you are able*

Prelude: "In the Bleak Midwinter" and "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"  
arr. Roberta Rowland-Raybold

## Gathering

WELCOME & LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Reader: Then Isaiah said to the king, "The Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel."

Reader: Which means, "God with Us."

Reader: We light this candle as sign of God coming to us in the birth of a child to a young woman.  
*Isaiah 7:14*

**All Singing: 63 "My Soul in Stillness in Waits"**  
*All singing verses 1 and 4*

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Hear us, Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock.  
You who sit enthroned between the cherubim, shine forth.

**All: Awaken your might; come and save us.**

Liturgist: Restore us, O God; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.  
*Psalms 80:1-3*

\* **All Singing: 67 "Blessed Be the God of Israel"**

\* GOD'S GREETING

\* GOD'S PEOPLE GREETING ONE ANOTHER

\* **All Singing: 57 “All Earth is Waiting”**

*Children ages 2–7 may come forward for a brief word and blessing before they leave for “God Loves Me” and “Children in Worship.”*

**CHILDREN’S BLESSING**

Children: The peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

## **Reconciliation**

Liturgist: Restore us, Lord God Almighty; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.

**All: Your vine is cut down, it is burned with fire; at your rebuke your people perish.**

Liturgist: Let your hand rest on the man at your right hand, the son of man you have raised up for yourself. Then we will not turn away from you; revive us, and we will call on your name.

**All: Restore us, Lord God Almighty; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.**

*Psalm 80:16-19*

### *Silent Confession and Reflection*

Readers: Matthew 1:18-25

Choir: “Emmanuel”

Dennis Friesen-Carper

When God created the world, it was good,  
And people were given the choice  
To live in the presence of God the Creator,  
And with all Creation rejoice;

But the people shortsighted and selfish  
Decided to steal, deceive, and to shun,  
To maim and to kill until blood and Creation  
Cried out for God to send someone, call him:

Wonderful, Counselor, Son of God, Son of Man, call him:  
Lord of Lords, King of Kings, Bread of Life, Prince of Peace.

God sent a flood, it was not enough to wash away our sin,  
For the people’s hearts were stone, and evil came to rule again.  
Through the judges, priests, and the rule of law, sinners failed to find their soul,  
So God promised us a Saviour who’d come to make the nations whole, call him:

Mary named him Jesus, deep in her heart she knew  
That the promise of the ages had finally come true,  
Our Emmanuel came in poverty, not an earthly prince or king;  
As the baby cried, his mother smiled, ‘cause she could hear the angels sing, call him:

Teacher, Good Shepherd, Salvation of Israel,  
Advocate, Cornerstone, Brother and Friend, call him  
Lamb of God, Dayspring, Desire of Nations,  
Redeemer, Foundation, my Saviour and Lord!

He shall be called, Emmanuel, God with us.

Liturgist: This is the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All:** **Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all to the obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake.**

Liturgist: And you also are among those who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.  
*Romans 1:2-6*

## Proclamation

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

\* **All Singing:** **107** **“Come, Light, Light of God”**  
*Singing through three times*

Scripture: Isaiah 7:10-16

Minister: The Word of the Lord.  
**All:** **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon: An Advent Geography: *A Young Woman*

\* **All Singing:** **74** **“Savior of the Nations, Come”**  
*Singing verses 1 – 4. Choir singing verse 1, all men singing verse 2, all women singing verse 3, all singing verse 4.*

## Dedication

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Liturgist: With joy, let us now offer our gifts, in music, heart, and resource, as a sign of our deep devotion and covenant faithfulness.

OFFERING

1. General Fund
2. Resonate Global Mission

OFFERTORY “Mary Did You Know”

arr. Ben & Josiah Friesen

\* **All Singing:** **74** **“Savior of the Nations, Come”**  
*Singing verse 7*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## Sending

\* BENEDICTION

\* **All Singing:** **80** **“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”**

Postlude: “O Come, All Ye Faithful”


arr. Ruth E. Schram

**Worship Leaders**

Organist: Lynn Hollender  
Pianist / Accompanist: Anna Triezenberg-Sims  
Choir Director: David Baar  
Flutists: Lynn Hollender  
Charlotte Lydon  
Offertory Duet: Ben & Josiah Friesen  
Minister: Roger Nelson

Advent: van den Brink Family  
Liturgist: Kris Jousma  
Prayer: Dave Jousma  
Readers: Bill & Amy Boerman Cornell  
Norah Van Wyngarden

Hymns are from *Lift Up Your Hearts* (Faith Alive Christian Resources, 2013)  
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 **Hope** 5825 W 151st Street, Oak Forest, IL 60452  
[www.hope-crc.org](http://www.hope-crc.org)