



December 20, 2020 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Worship Participants

Assisting Minister: Pastor Lamont Koerner
Preaching Today: Pastor Meredith McGrath
Organist/Pianist: Brian Voss
Hymn Leader: Tim Newcomb

Elizabeth, a woman “of a certain age,” was quietly living a rather unassuming life. She had her disappointments. Her heartaches. Perhaps she was not altogether unhappy. She still had hopes, dreams. They were likely not wrong, not untrue. But until now, she had not conceived how extraordinary were God’s dreams for her. She, a direct descendant of Aaron, the first priest, would give birth to words to be spoken and signs preformed in the sight of the people to prepare the way of the Lord!

Prelude

Welcome/Announcements

Advent Introit

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.
Elizabeth’s son calls all people to prepare the Lord’s way
for the kingdom of heaven is near.
Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath.
Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit,
that we may be a light shining in the darkness
welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us,
for he is our light and our salvation.
Blessed be God forever. **Amen.**

Hymn: *ELW 257 - O Come, O Come Emmanuel, verse 5*

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
whose forgiveness is sure
and whose steadfast love endures forever. **Amen.**

Together let us honestly and humbly confess
that we have not lived as God desires.

Loving and forgiving God,

**we confess that we are held captive by sin.
In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger;
we have not loved our neighbor;
we have not been Christ to one another.
Restore us, O God.
Wake us up and turn us from our sin.
Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.**

People of God, hear this glad news:
by God’s endless grace

your sins are forgiven, and you are free—
free from all that holds you back
and free to live in the peaceable realm of God.
May you be strengthened in God's love,
‡ comforted by Christ's peace,
and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Hymn: *ELW 264 - Prepare the Royal Highway, verses 1 & 3*

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.**

Reading: Psalm 113

Gospel: Luke 1:5-13

Sermon

Generosity Moment

Hymn: *ELW 266 - All Earth is Hopeful, verses 1 & 2*

Prayers of the People

Communion - Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

Table Blessing/Prayer

Blessing and Sending

Postlude

For readings, refer to your Bible or use an online Bible source, such as [Bible Gateway](#). [NOTE: The New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) is used.]