



4th Sunday of Advent

Kent Memorial Lutheran Church

184 Sunset Hill Drive
Sunrise Beach, Missouri 65079

The Rev. Edward L. Foster, Pastor

December 22, 2024

Hearing God's Call & Responding in Love,
We Share Jesus With All!

FROM PASTOR ED

In Mary's beautiful Magnificat she praises God for blessing her with the privilege of bringing the Messiah into the world. Mary believed God's promise of a son, but more than that, Mary had faith that her son would be the savior of the entire world, of the weak and the lowly, of the poor and the hungry. Her faith that God could use her in spite of all the reasons that was unlikely or even impossible makes her an example to every generation. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of her child, we can not help but remember all of those children who are hurting or in fear, praying especially for the children of Madison Wisconsin who have been injured and terrorized. May that Christ Child, provide them comfort and healing.

God bless you all,
Pastor Ed

OUR 10:00 a.m. WORSHIP IS AVAILABLE VIA ZOOM:

To join a worship service, please contact the church at 573-374-5267 for assistance.

Welcome to Worship

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."

+ + + + +

Prelude

Immanuel

Joyce Wanamaker

You are invited to use this time of musical offering to prepare for worship, to open yourself to God, our Father, his Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, present in this place.

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: As we gather around the Advent wreath today, we rejoice that Christmas is a time of prayer and open our hearts when we sing songs of Joy. Christmas is a time of worship, the moment when the busiest of us pause in wonder. Christmas happens when God comes to us in love through Jesus Christ and fills us with love for all humankind. Let us confess our sins.

Confession and Forgiveness

C: Holy God, as we gather with you this Advent in your sanctuary, we pray about the sin that threatens to scatter us from you, from each other and from our neighbors in this world. If not for your promise to hear us in our need, we could not bear to bring you the failure in our lives to do your will. Thank you for accepting us as we come to you now. Let your mercy pass over our lives. Humble us with the grace that defeats our pride and restores our self-esteem. Let our song be joined with Mary's song, magnifying you and rejoicing in you, our Savior. Look in favor upon us and choose us again to be your servants, through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

P: In the name of Jesus the Christ-Child I declare unto you the entire forgiveness of all your sins. Keep us open to what is going on around us, O Lord, and guide our searching for how your grace calls us to become partners with you in doing your will.

Sharing of the Peace (We share a sign of peace with one another.)

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Gathering Hymn

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

ELW # 254

Liturgy Setting 4

ELW p. 147

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

C: And also with you.

Kyrie

L: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

Canticle of Praise: Glory to God in the highest

ELW p. 148

L: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

**C: Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

All: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Children's Sermon

Pastor Ed

CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY

Lighting the Advent Candle

P: The fourth candle of Advent is the candle of JOY.

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth; sing the glory of his name;
give to him glorious praise. (*Psalm 66:1-2*)

All: I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. (*John 15:11*)

P: Come again O Lord of joy.

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

ELW # 240, v. 4

Special Music

Breath of Heaven

Vanessa, Tracy & Margo

First Reading

Micah 5:2-5a

Old Testament

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80:1-7 (congregation reads responsively)

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

**²In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

³Restore us, O God;

let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁴O LORD God of hosts,

how long will your anger fume when your people pray?

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears;

you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

**⁶You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;

let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

Second Reading**Luke 1:46b-55**

New Testament

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.**Gospel Announcement**

Pastor Ed Foster

P: The gospel according to Luke, the first chapter

C: Glory to you, O Lord.**Gospel Reading**

Luke 1:39-45

New Testament

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ**Sermon**

Pastor Ed Foster

Hymn of the Day*The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*

ELW # 265, v. 1-3

Profession of Faith—Apostle's 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 again 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.****The Prayers**

P: Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.**Reception of Offerings** *Please fill out the red friendship pad and pass it to your neighbor.***Offertory***While Shepherds Watch Their Flocks*

Joyce Wanamaker

Offering Prayer

P: Creator God,

**C: you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts
of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.****Holy Communion**

ELW p. 152

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW p. 153

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.

Distribution

Holy Communion is the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ given with bread and wine, instituted by Christ himself for us to eat and drink. Communion is open to all who believe that Jesus Christ is our savior. Children who do not commune may come forward for a blessing. You may commune in place using a communion kit, if preferred.

Communion Hymns

*Soon and Very Soon
Savior of the Nations, Come
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

ELW # 439
ELW # 263
ELW # 257, v. 1-4

Post-Communion Prayer

Benediction

Announcements

Sending Hymn

Joy to the World

ELW # 267, V. 1 & 2

The Dismissal

P: Hearing God's call and responding in love,
C: **we share Jesus with all!**

Postlude

Good Christian Men, Rejoice

Joyce Wanamaker

Fellowship Time

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor	Ed Foster
Organist/Pianist	Joyce Wanamaker
Choir Director	Tracy Garrett
Choir Accompanist	Tracey Atzeni
Handbells Director	Toni Wagner
Altar Guild	Katie Heaford
Greeters/Ushers	Gail Kruse
Liturgist	Al Mohling
Lector	Teri Stout
Sound & Zoom Technician	Dan Garrett
Coffee Fellowship	Larry & Suzanne Lutjen

COMING THIS WEEK

December 22-29

Today	10:00 a.m.	Worship with Holy Communion (live-streamed)
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship (coffee & donuts)
Tuesday		Handbells Rehearsal
		CHRISTMAS EVE
	5:00 p.m.	Handbells Rehearsal
	5:15 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	Candlelight Worship
		CHRISTMAS DAY
		Office Closed
Thursday		Office Closed
	9:45 a.m.	Community for Christ
Friday		Office Closed
Saturday	9:45 a.m.	Community for Christ
Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Worship with Holy Communion (live-streamed)
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship (coffee & donuts)

✠ *Prayer Concerns* ✠

OUR MEMBERS

Toni Wagner
Kelly Covey
Joe Poretta
Maxine Williams

Liz VanDeVeire
Donald Brumm
Marsha Gust
Geri Riley

Stan Field
Pat Embich
Jim Gilbert
Gene Page

OUR FAMILY & FRIENDS

Esther Strothmann
Mary Ann Carter
Brandon Rodewald
Doug Jones
Sal Caudill
Patrick Parkhurst
Kenny Mullins

Cindy Holm
Kirk McLaughlin
Stacy Carey
Ryan Dilhman
Trudy Hamilton
Dianne Steingrubey
Wayne Jackson

Gil Wilde
Tamara McClain
Jeanne Hines
Mike Holmes
Steve Hughes
Vicki Sawyer
Marcille Bohling

Christian condolences & hope are offered to Tina Mohr on the death of her friend, Denise Czaplewski.

CONTINUED PRAYERS

Julie (Ziehl) Anderson
Evan Beaupre
Michelle Becker
Jessica Birdsong
Cindy Campbell
Shirley Clark
Evelyn Clements
Chuck Cuthbertson
Mary Beth Fair
Ron Ferguson
Stacey Fleck

Al Gann
Ken Gerardy
Carla Glusing
Ruth Goddard & family
CF Huff
Teresa Joslin
Linda Kimberling
Ed Krueger
Blanch Lacroix
Jennifer Pedersen
Jodi (Ziehl) Redmond

Ron Roberts
Marcia Robbins
Michele Schafer
Dave Shaver
Karen Thompson
Karen Tischnor
Theresa White
Bernie Wiegel
Jerry Williams

REMEMBERING THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Christopher Babcock
Eric Blomberg

Ben Brammeier
Shade Bullock

Salathiel (Sal) Caudill
Dylan Craig

Aaron Davis
Tanner Glodt
Kristine Hubbard
Jason Ites

Jason Judge
Adam Kralina
Matt Lee
Jordan Lindeman

Glenn Maddock
Tristan Morgan
Adam Peterson

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR DECEMBER 22

WELCOME TO KENT MEMORIAL Thank you for worshipping with us this morning. Communion is open to all who believe that Jesus Christ is our Savior. We invite you to stay for coffee and fellowship (and donuts!) after the service. If you are visiting for the first time or searching for a church home, please include your address and phone number on the Red Friendship Pad and let us know. First time here? Please introduce yourself to Pastor Ed at the end of the service.

CARE CORE for December is Linda Williams, 573-374-9147 or 573-480-3008.

USHERS NEEDED Ushers are needed for every Sunday, and extras on Christmas Eve and Easter. Please sign up. Training is available.

THANK YOU FROM HURRICANE DECK Thanks for your generosity in filling the shelves of Hurricane Deck's Christmas store, and for helping set up. You made a lot of kiddos happy!

VOLUNTEER AT COMMUNITY FOR CHRIST Time to volunteer at Community for Christ on Thur. Dec. 26th and Sat. Dec. 28th. The sign-up sheet is on the infamous bulletin board. Thanks to all who have given their time this past year. Because of the giving of time, food donations, money donated, and clothing and household items, there are numerous families in this area who will enjoy the Christmas season. CFC sends all a large Thank You, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

SALVATION ARMY DONATIONS Interesting fact--80% percent of monies donated in this area stay in this area. Remember this when you pass bell ringers. Or if you chose to send in your donation, if possible, make certain that your check shows a zip code of this area. Funds are distributed thru organizations such as Community for Christ. Bless you and thanks for your generosity.

ADDITIONAL OFFERING COUNTERS NEEDED The Counting Team Leader would like you to know that we need a few more people to join the counting group. Currently, each team of two counts once every 6 weeks. We would like to add two teams and an additional person to substitute when the need arises. If you would like to help us out by joining this team or if you have any questions about the way it works, please contact Jane Maher at 812-306- 5462.

COMMUNITY FOR CHRIST PANTRY 'Tis the season once again. We will gratefully accept anything for holiday meals: turkeys, hams, Stove Top Stuffing, potatoes (real or boxed), canned veggies, fruit, and pie fillings. And soups too! Also, condiments of any kind like catsup, mustard, mayo and salad dressings. Bring your donations to church and put them in the big blue box in the narthex, outside of Pastor's office.