

Fourth Sunday of Advent
ELW Holy Communion Setting One
Sunday, December 20, 2020



All Saints Lutheran Church, ELCA

722 Rockbridge Road SW

Lilburn, GA 30047

Rev. Dr. Ruth E. Hamilton, Interim Pastor

John Womack, Director of Music and Organist

www.allsaintsilburn.org

Introduction to the day

God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."

---GATHERING---

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

ZOOM NARTHEX TIME

9:50-10:05 am

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lisette Branscomb
Congregational President

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ELW p. 94)

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

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.

My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav-ior's praise!
 2 To all who live in ho-ly fear your mer-cy ev-er flows.
 3 To Is-ra-el, your ser-vant blest, your help is ev-er sure;

You looked up-on my low-li-ness, and I am full of grace.
 With might-y arm you dash the proud, their schem-ing hearts ex-pose.
 the prom-ise to our par-ents made their chil-dren will se-cure.

Now ev-'ry land and ev-'ry age this bless-ing shall pro-claim—
 The ruth-less you have cast a-side, the low-ly throned in-stead;
 Sing glo-ry to the Ho-ly One, give hon-or to the Word,

great won-ders you have done for me, and ho-ly is your name.
 the hun-gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un-fed.
 and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a-dored.

Text: With One Voice, 1995, based on the Magnificat
 Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958
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GREETING (ELW p. 98)

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

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 (ELW p. 102)

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

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.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

HYMN

“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”

John Womack

Light four candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He is coming, tell the glad tidings.
Let your lights be shining!

Let us pray.

Jack Branscomb

Blessed are you, God of hosts, for you promised to send a son, Emmanuel, who brought your presence among us; and you promise through your Son Jesus to save us from our sin. As we light these candles, turn again to us in mercy; strengthen our faith in the word spoken by your prophets; restore us and give us life that we may be saved.

O house of David, come,
**let us rejoice, for the Son of God, Emmanuel,
comes to be with us. Amen.**

---WORD---

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Jack Branscomb

Instead of David building a house (temple) for God, God promises to establish David's house (dynasty) forever. Centuries later, after the Babylonian exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the messiah, God's anointed.

A reading from 2 Samuel.

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. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Romans 16:25-27

Jack Branscomb

Paul closes his letter to the Romans by praising God because, in the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, God has revealed the promised, divine plan of salvation for all humanity. Paul proclaims this gospel of Christ in order to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations.

A reading from Romans.

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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 102)

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

Alleluia. Here am I, the servant of the Lord;* let it be with me according to your word. *Alleluia.*

GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people from little known places. This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in this gospel.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

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.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 265

SEE FOLLOWING PAGE

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Jack Branscomb

God of power and might, fulfill your promise and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, all generations call you blessed. In this holy season we pray for our neighbors of other denominations and faiths. Inspire the faith of their people. Cultivate understanding among us and strengthen us in love and service to our community. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creator God, you scatter the proud. Everything we have belongs first to you. Bless and protect the seas, mountains, plains, forests, skies, and soils that surround us. Give us humility as we tend them. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Righteous God, you humble the powerful and lift up the lowly. We pray for the leaders of all nations, that they amplify the voices of people in need. Guide all people entrusted with leadership, to create societies in which everyone can flourish. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Compassionate God, you fill the hungry with good things and send the rich away empty. Nourish those who lack access to adequate food and nutrition. Bless the work of advocates, community organizers, and food pantries. Encourage others to provide for their neighbors in need. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Healing God, you pour out mercy to all who cry out to you. Surround everyone in need of healing in body, mind, or spirit with your tender presence (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
4 Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
and Chris-tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say:



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,
"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924
Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Basque carol

Holy God, we pray especially for:

- Sandra Robinson; Julie Boyer; Sharon Marion; Maddy Faass.
- The family of Genet Johnson; Charlene Meyer; Kathryn Stoner; Tom Miller.
- Joyce Holdrich; Jeff Smith; Buster Lanham; Keith Kessler and family; Cindy Murphy.
- Robert and Betty; Jessica Kraus; Sister Roberta; Sandy Staven; Cherie Mason.
- Margaret; June Hix; Trudy Hanson; Sharon O'Connor; Gail Guffey.
- Hilton and Patti Austin; Marjorie O'Brien; Jerry Barnes; Jim and Mary Scobee.
- Charlie Kuni; Ted Haag; Leisa Wiggley; Officer Max Brewer; Rosie Marks; Marta.
- Steve Robinson; Margaret Robinson; Rick Robinson; Sondra Fowler.
- Chris Holdrich, Stephanie, and all healthcare workers.
- Bob and all those underemployed and unemployed.
- Richard Kraus.
- Children, parents, teachers, and school administrators.
- All Saints' Call Committee.
- Meredith and John Wesley Turner.
- The family and friends of Audrey Feldbruegge.

Eternal God, you are faithful to the promises you made to our forebears. We give thanks for the ministry of Katharina von Bora Luther and other ancestors who organized, planned, dreamed, encouraged, and reached out as they served you. We give thanks for the bold leadership of female leaders in our own time. Inspire others with their steadfast witness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

---MEAL---

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

<https://www.aplos.com/aws/give/AllSaintsLutheranChurch1/general>

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

OFFERING of Bread and Wine

Preparing your bread and wine

All

OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God,

you have created all that is,

and you provide for us in every season.

Bless all that we offer,

that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing.

In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray.

Amen.

Jack Branscomb

+GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

+DIALOGUE (ELW P. 107)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

+PREFACE (ELW p. 108)

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
Through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

+HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 108)

John Womack

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

+THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.
In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.
Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours,

Holy One of Israel,

Word of God incarnate,

Power of the Most High,

one God, now and forever.

Amen.

+LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 112)

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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

Even as we watch and wait, Christ is here.

Come, eat and drink.

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
and each person may respond: Amen

COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 112)

John Womack

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace unto life everlasting.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Jack Branscomb

Let us pray.
Gracious and abundant God,
you have done great things for us, and we rejoice.
In this bread and cup you give us life forever.
In your boundless mercy, strengthen us
and open our hearts to the world's needs,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

---SENDING---

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING (ELW p. 114)

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,
the long-expected Savior fill you with love,
the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,
✠ now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING SONG

ELW 490

SEE FOLLOWING PAGE

DISMISSAL

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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VERSES 1 AND 2

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence



1 Let all mor-tal flesh keep si-lence, and with fear and trem-bling stand;
2 King of kings, yet born of Mar-y, as of old on earth he stood,
3 Rank on rank the host of heav-en spreads its van-guard on the way;
4 At his feet the six-winged ser-aph, cher-u-bim with sleep-less eye,



pon-der noth-ing earth-ly - mind-ed, for with bless-ing in his hand
Lord of lords in hu-man ves-ture, in the bod-y and the blood,
as the Light of light, de-scend-ing from the realms of end-less day,
veil their fac-es to the pres-ence, as with cease-less voice they cry:



Christ our God to earth de-scend-ing comes full hom-age to de-mand.
he will give to all the faith-ful his own self for heav'n-ly food.
comes, the pow'rs of hell to van-quish, as the dark-ness clears a-way.
"Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia, Lord Most High!"

Text: Liturgy of St. James; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829-1885, alt.
Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.

---PRAYER LIST---

- ❖ Sandra Robinson, recovering from hospitalization for MS issues
- ❖ Julie Boyer, for strength and reassurance, breast cancer surgery scheduled for January 4
- ❖ Sharon Marion, for safe travel and health while visiting family out of state
- ❖ Maddy Faass, for healing and pain relief from a broken foot
- ❖ The family of Genet Johnson (Blandon's wife), who have been caught up in violence in Ethiopia and have not been heard from for several weeks
- ❖ Charlene Meyer (mother of Sharon Marion) and Kathryn Stoner (mother of Mary Kay Kates) for comfort and peace living in a facility where there are COVID cases
- ❖ Tom Miller (father-in-law of Abby Yale Miller), for healing in recovery from a brain infection; physical therapy and rehab for 14 weeks
- ❖ Joyce Holdrich, monitoring high heart rate (Afib) condition
- ❖ Jeff Smith (cousin of Joann Rosselle), diagnosed with pancreatic cancer
- ❖ Buster Lanham (brother-in-law of Angela Kates), chemo and radiation for inoperable Stage 2 pharyngeal cancer
- ❖ Keith Kessler & family (former St. James members), Keith was recently diagnosed with an incurable rare disease. Also for Sharon and Dave Anyan who have been friends with the Kessler family for 40 years
- ❖ Cindy Murphy, recovering from back surgery on December 14; MRIs in early January to determine treatment for kidney issue
- ❖ Robert (nephew of Betty Bradford), recovery after surgery and other major health concerns; also for his 85 year-old mother Betty (sister-in-law of Betty Bradford), who is his caregiver
- ❖ Jessica Kraus (niece of Bruce Kraus), diagnosed with Stage 4 Hodgkins Lymphoma, prayers for strength as she begins chemotherapy
- ❖ Sister Roberta, for renewed strength and energy; she is grateful for everyone's prayers
- ❖ Sandy Staven, for relief from hip pain, hip replacement surgery scheduled for January 12
- ❖ Cherie Mason, relief from side effects of chemotherapy
- ❖ Margaret (friend of Laura Trittin's mother Carol), stage 4 kidney disease; searching for a living donor
- ❖ June Hix, relief from difficulty walking, sinus issues and severe allergies
- ❖ Trudy Hanson, chemotherapy for breast cancer; radiation to follow
- ❖ Sharon O'Connor, health issues
- ❖ Gail Guffey, mother-in-law of Sandy (Cherie Mason's daughter), in hospice after suffering a massive stroke, now responsive and being considered for rehab
- ❖ Hilton and Patti Austin, for strength, comfort, and courage as Hilton moves into hospice care
- ❖ Marjorie O'Brien, health issues
- ❖ Jerry Barnes, for COPD and health issues
- ❖ Jim Scobee, recovering from heart valve replacement on October 21, prayers for patience and regained strength and energy; Mary Scobee, pain relief from arthritis
- ❖ Charlie Kuni, carotid artery issues
- ❖ Ted Haag (friend of Joyce & John Holdrich for 60 yrs), dealing with lung cancer, as he moves into hospice care
- ❖ Leisa Wiggley (friend of All Saints' quilters), for healing from pancreatic cancer
- ❖ APD Officer Max Brewer, now home, for healing and successful rehab and therapy

- ❖ Rosie Marks (Cherie Mason's sister-in-law), for her recovery from colon cancer surgery
- ❖ Marta (long-time friend of Rica Kelly), for healing from health issues
- ❖ Steve Robinson (brother of Rick Robinson) in rehab for diabetes
- ❖ Margaret Robinson (mother-in-law of Sandra Robinson), recovering from broken hip/falls
- ❖ Rick Robinson (Sandra Robinson's husband), for healing
- ❖ Sondra Fowler (cousin of Sandra Robinson), for healing after the death of her husband; thanksgiving that prayers are working and she is doing better
- ❖ Chris Holdrich (John & Joyce Holdrich's grandson) and Stephanie (friend of Joann Rosselle), for guidance and protection in their work as healthcare workers
- ❖ Bob (brother of Cherie Mason) and all those underemployed/unemployed
- ❖ Richard Kraus (father of Bruce Kraus), and others for reassurance and safety living in facilities where COVID-19 may be present
- ❖ Children, parents, teachers, and school administrators, for guidance, wisdom, and cooperation in making wise decisions for all
- ❖ All Saints' Call Committee, as they move ahead in the Call Process
- ❖ Meredith Lynn Jones (daughter of John Jones and Susan Holbrook) and John Wesley Turner, congratulations on their marriage in Austin, Texas on November 16
- ❖ For the family and friends of Audrey Feldbruegge, who passed away recently. Audrey was a life-long friend and neighbor of Sheila Wagner's family in Madison, Wisconsin