

**A morning service during the Covid-19 restrictions
Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 19, 2021**

Prelude: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" text: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893) music: Lewis Henry Redner (1831-1908). Reprint/Podcast/Streamed with permission under One License #606702-A .

The officiant says to the people,

Dear friends in Christ, as we prepare to worship almighty God, let us with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

The officiant and people say together,

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us,

that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

The priest says,

Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Kingdom of our God is at hand: O come let us worship.

Once In Royal David's City

**Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed.
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.**

**He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall.
With the poor and mean and lowly lived on earth our Saviour holy.**

**Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him, but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high,
when, like stars, his children crowned all in white shall gather round.**

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895) alt. Music: Henry John Gauntlett (1805-1876) Reprint/Podcast/Streamed with permission granted under One License #606702-A

First Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

Psalm 80:1-7

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4 O Lord God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbours, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

Gospel: Luke 1:39-55 A reflection on the readings (written by the Ven. Glen Miller)

Hear, O Israel

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.
Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul,
with all your mind, and with all your strength.
This is the first and the great commandment.
The second is like it:
Love your neighbour as yourself.
There is no commandment greater than these.

My Soul Proclaims Your Glory, Lord

My soul proclaims your glory, Lord, my spirit sings with thankful voice,
for now my lowly prayer have heard: in you, my Saviour, I rejoice.

Nations unborn will bless your name, giver of boundless grace to me,
in every age you are the same: you make the humble whole and free.

You have made bare your mighty arm to break the yoke of selfish power,
and lift your broken ones from harm, bursting the gates of greed's proud tower.

You fill the hungry mouths with food, and show the poverty of wealth.
Your ancient vow you have made good, and raised your children to new health.

Glory to God, all being's Spring, to God the Word, salvation's voice,
to God the Spirit, praise we sing: with all the ages we rejoice.

Text: Song of Mary (Luke 1:46-56); para. Paul Gibson (1932-) © Music: John Hatton (?-1793) Reprint/Podcast/Streamed with permission under One License #606702-A .

The Prayer of the People (see litany below and...)

Parish Prayer cycle: The McDonald Family, Alison & Brydan McGhee

Our prayers have been requested for: Wendy Thelma, Vivian, Spruce, Tom, and Steve.
We continue to pray for the front line workers who serve in the midst of this pandemic and our Archbishop, Anne Germond. St. James', Gravenhurst, The Rev. Heather Manuel, The Rev. Canon Tom James (Hon.), The Rev. Jim Schell (Deacon). We also pray for the congregation at the Church of the Ascension as they prepare welcome their new priest, the Rev. Jeffrey Hooper and we give thanks for the ministry of the Rev. Canon Dr. John Gibaut who has been serving as interim priest.

(In joyful expectation let us pray to our Saviour and Redeemer, saying, "Lord Jesus, come soon!")
O Wisdom, from the mouth of the Most High, you reign over all things to the ends of the earth: come
and teach us how to live.
Lord Jesus, come soon!

O Lord, and head of the house of Israel, you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and you gave the law on Sinai: come with outstretched arm and ransom us. **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

O Branch of Jesse, standing as a sign among the nations, all kings will keep silence before you and all peoples will summon you to their aid: come, set us free and delay no more. **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

O Key of David and sceptre of the house of Israel, you open and none can shut; you shut and none can open: come and free the captives from prison. **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

O Morning Star, splendour of the light eternal and bright Sun of righteousness: come and enlighten all who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death. **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

O King of the nations, you alone can fulfil their desires: Cornerstone, you make opposing nations one: come and save the creature you fashioned from clay. **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

O Emmanuel, hope of the nations and their Saviour: come and save us, Lord our God. **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

Collect of the day.

Heavenly Father, who chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace, to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour, now fill us with your grace, that we in all things may embrace your will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

The Lord's prayer

How Beauteous Are Their Feet

**How beauteous are their feet who stand on Zion's hill.
Who bring salvation on their tongues and words of peace reveal!**

**How welcome is their voice, how sweet the tidings are!
Zion, behold thy Saviour King, he reigns and triumphs here.**

**How happy are our ears that hear this joyful sound,
which seers and rulers waited for and sought, but never found.**

**How blessed are our eyes that see this heavenly light!
Prophets and saints desired it long, but died without the sight.**

**The sentinels in song their tuneful notes employ;
Jerusalem breaks forth in hymns and deserts sing for joy.**

**The glory of the Lord shines through the earth abroad:
let every nation now behold their Saviour and their God.**

Text: Isaac Watts (1674-1748) alt. Music: William Amps (1824-1910) Reprint/Podcast/Streamed permission from One License #606702-A

Final Blessing & Dismissal

***Officiant* Let us bless the Lord. *People* Thanks be to God!**

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