

Advent Four

December 18th 2022 + 4pm

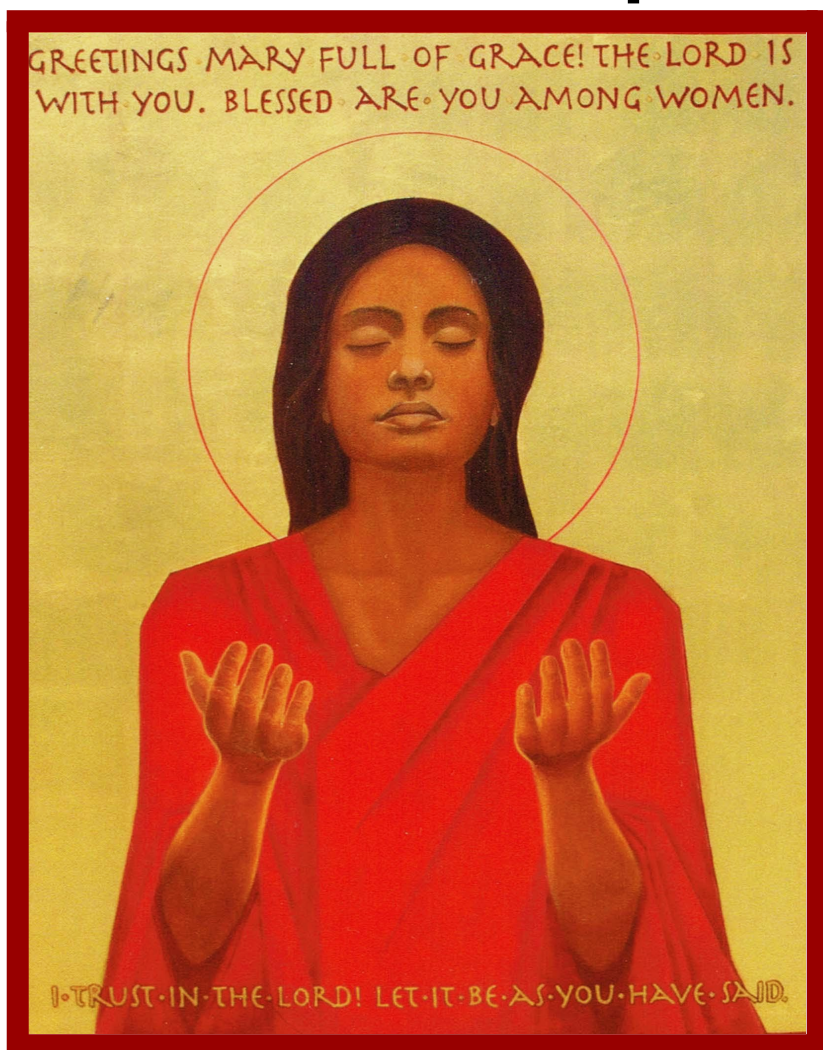


Image: [Laura Fisher Smith](#)



*Beloved companions in the Spirit -
Come as you are offering our lives
in the beautiful struggle of faith...*

We Gather

Opening Loop / Tolling of the Bells

Announcements & Land Acknowledgement & Land Welcome in lək'wəŋən from elder Butch Dick

*During the invocation, the youth and children bring forward lit
candles. Reminding us the light of the world is with us even as
we wait.*

Invocation: Come To Us Emmanuel

Come to us, Emmanuel
We wait for thee with bated breath
And hope filled hearts
And anxious minds
Longing to see your face
And worship at your feet
Isaiah's vision didst unfold
When you descended into this world
to bring good news
and set the prisoners free
You set aside eternity
so that we might live
So come to us Emmanuel
we live in hope of your return
to bring new life to this old world
to end all wars and to heal all hearts
and to reign forevermore
to reign forevermore.

Peter LeGrand (Ordinary Time) / CCLI

Candle Lighting

There were safer places
more comfortable places
palaces and wealthy places
Yet you chose a daughter of the soil
to be your temporary home...

**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my
spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for you, Lord,
have looked with favour on your lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed**

When does an ordinary life become extraordinary?
A mundane day become revolutionary?
A moment in time change history?

When God enters in
Forgives sin
Allows us to begin again
When we repeat those words of Mary
‘May it be to me, according to your word’

The fourth Advent candle is lit

Today, as we mark the Advent path with candle flames,
we light the fourth candle, the candle of love.

Bell. Silence. Bell

Opening Song: Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Come, thou long expected Jesus
Born thy people to deliver
Born to set thy people free,
Born a child, and yet a king,
From our fears and sins release us;
Born to reign in us forever,
Let us find our rest in Thee
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.

Israel's strength and consolation,
By thine own eternal Spirit
Hope of a all the earth thou art;
Rule in all our hearts alone;
Dear de-sire of every nation,
By thine all sufficient merit
Joy of every long-ing heart.
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

Charles Wesley, 1707–1788. / Christian F. Witt's Harmonia Sacra, 1715; adapt. by
Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876 / Public Domain

Poem: O Sapientia, Madeleine L'Engle

Read by poet-in-residence **Rebecca Yeo**

It was from Joseph first I learned
of love. Like me he was dismayed.
How easily he could have turned
me from his house; but, unafraid,
he put me not away from him
(O God-sent angel, pray for him).
Thus through his love was Love obeyed.

The Child's first cry came like a bell:
God's Word aloud, God's Word in deed.
The angel spoke: so it befell,
and Joseph with me in my need.
O Child whose father came from heaven,
to you another gift was given,
your earthly father chosen well.

With Joseph I was always warmed
and cherished. Even in the stable
I knew that I would not be harmed.
And, though above the angels swarmed,
man's love it was that made me able
to bear God's love, wild, formidable,
to bear God's will, through me performed.

We Proclaim

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (7:10-16)

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore 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. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle: The Magnificat (Luke 1:47-55)

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord
My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour
For you, Lord, have looked with favour on your lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:
You have done great things for me and holy is your name.
You have mercy on those who fear you,
from generation to generation.
You have shown strength with your arm
and scattered the proud in their conceit,
casting down the mighty from their thrones
and lifting up the lowly.
You have filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.
You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,
to remember the promise of mercy,
the promise made to our ancestors,
to Sarah and Abraham and their children forever.

A reading from the letter of the letter of Paul to the Romans (1:1-7)

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord! **Thanks be to God.**

You are invited to rise in body or in spirit as we prepare our hearts to hear the Gospel.

Gospel Acclamation: Prepare Ye The Way

Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord,
And all people will see the salvation of our God.

Ateliers et Presses de Taizé / Jacques Berthier, Taizé Community / OneLicense

The Gospel

Let us proclaim the gospel from the rooftops!

With our words and with our lives!

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew (1:18-25)
Wil Gafney translation.

Now this is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah happened: when his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to have a child in her womb from the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband was a just man and unwilling to shame her; he wanted to divorce her secretly. But when he deliberated this, suddenly an angel of the Most High God appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for in her is conceived a child from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this happened to fulfil what had been spoken by the Most High God through the prophet: “look now! The virgin shall conceive a child in her womb and give birth to a son, and they shall call him Emmanuel“, which translated means, “God is with us”. When Joseph got up from sleep, he did as Angel of the Most High God commanded him. He took her as his wife, yet did not know her sexually until the birthing of her son and they named him Jesus.

Let us proclaim the gospel from the rooftops!

With our words and with our lives!

Gospel Acclamation: Prepare Ye The Way

Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord,
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Sermon

Rebecca Yeo

Bell / Silence / Bell

You are invited to rise in body or in spirit as we affirm our faith.

Affirmation of Faith

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.**

Our Prayers

Confession and Assurance

When our spirits despair and we deny our blessedness,
Forgive us, O God.

When we ignore the mighty things you have done and
doubt your mercy,
Forgive us, O God.

When our power rests on the oppression of others,
When our wealth causes others to go hungry,
Forgive us, O God.

Bell. Silent Prayer.

God for whom we wait, draw us in and cleanse us of our
sins so that we might walk in the light of the Word Made
Flesh. Jesus Christ our Redeemer. **Amen.**

The Peace

Beloved in Christ. The peace of the Lord be always with
you. **And also with you.**

We exchange the peace with a gesture.

During this next 'offertory' song, the table is set.

*You are welcomed (now, or later) to place any financial contributions to
our common life in the vintage record player in the back of the worship
space. Cheques can be made out to 'The Emmaus Community'.
Charitable receipts will be issued if you leave us your address.*

Offertory Song: O Come O Come Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who ordered all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show
and teach us in its ways to go. *Refrain*

O come, O Branch of Jesse's stem,
unto your own and rescue them!
From depths of hell your people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave. *Refrain*

O come, O Key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home.
Make safe for us the heavenward road
and bar the way to death's abode. *Refrain*

O come, O Bright and Morning Star,
and bring us comfort from afar!
Dispel the shadows of the night
and turn our darkness into light. *Refrain*

'O' Antiphons, Latin, 9th cent.; tr. by John Mason Neale / Public Domain

We Celebrate

Prayer Over The Gifts

Come with gratitude and love to the table of the Lord.
Come with all your longing and all your hope for peace.
Bring the works of your hands and the gifts of your lives
as an offering of praise. **Amen** Feasting on the Word, (alt).

The Communion/Eucharist

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 God thanks and praise!

Holy God, How wonderful is the work of your hands!
All of creation echoes the music of your praise

When we fled from you, you sought us out and gathered us like a mother hen, covered us in your mercy and set us a place at your table.

Your holy prophets longed that you might tear the heavens and come down, and so in tenderness, you sent Jesus, born of Mary, to be Emmanuel - God with us.

As one of us, Jesus healed the sick and ate with outcasts and sinners, he opened the eyes of the blind and proclaimed liberation for all. **Glory to you forever and ever.**

You have sent your Holy Spirit as a mighty stream, to refresh and renew the face of the earth. Therefore with the company of heaven and all of your creation we sing:

**Holy holy holy Lord / God of power G—od of might /
Heaven and the earth are full / are fu-ll of your glo—ry /
Hosanna Hosanna / How blessed is the One!
who comes in the name of the Lord!**

While Jesus was eating with his disciples, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it, broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take, this is my body. Do this in remembrance of me."

Glory to you forever and ever.

As supper was ending, Jesus took the wine and after blessing it, poured it, gave it to them and said, take, this is my blood, do this in remembrance of me. **Glory to you forever and ever.**

Holy God we give you thanks for the mystery of faith given to us in Jesus your Child:

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ; dying you destroyed our death. Rising you restored our life. Lord Jesus come in glory to reign. O Come O Come O Come Emmanuel. Lord Jesus come in glory to reign.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. As we stay alert for signs of your coming, stir up our hearts and infuse us with your joy.

As grain was scattered across this land then gathered and made one in this bread, so may your church, scattered to the ends of the earth, be gathered and made one in your love. **Amen.**

The Prayer of Jesus

As beloved children of a loving parent let us pray:

Our Father (Mother/Source) in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Silence is kept.

These are the gifts of God, for the people of God, given for the life of the world. **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

All are welcome to receive at Jesus' table! The bread is gluten-free. It may contain dairy and/or almond flour. If you'd like a dairy or nut free option, please let the presider know. Juice is in the small cups. Wine is in the common cup, please do not dip the bread into the cup.

Communion Song: Mary

Mary, you're covered in roses, you're covered in ashes,
You're covered in rain You're covered in babies,
you're covered in slashes
You're covered in wilderness, you're covered in stains

You cast aside the sheets, you cast aside the shroud
Of another man who serves the world proud
And you greet another son, and you lose another one
On some sunny day, and always you stay -Mary

Jesus said mother I couldn't stay another day longer
He flies right by and leaves a kiss upon her face
While the angels were singing his praises in a blaze of glory
Mary stays behind and starts cleaning up the place

Oh Mary. She moves behind me, she leaves her fingerprints everywhere. Every time the snow drifts, every way the sand shifts. Even when the night lifts she's always there

Jesus said mother I couldn't stay another day longer
He flies right by and leaves a kiss upon her face
While the angels were singing his praises in a blaze of glory
Mary stays behind and starts cleaning up the place...Oh...

Mary, you're covered in roses,
You're covered in ruins, you're covered in secrets
You're covered in treetops, covered in birds
who can sing a million songs without any words

You cast aside the sheets, you cast aside the shroud
Of another man who served the world proud
And you greet another son and you lose another one
On some sunny day and always you stay. Mary
Patty Griffin Almo Music Corp. o/b/o One Big Love Music

Communion Song: Holy is Your Name

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord
and my spirit exalts in God my Saviour.
For you have looked with mercy on my lowliness
and my name will be forever exalted.
For you, mighty God have done great things for me
and your mercy will reach from age to age.
And holy, holy, holy is your name.

You have mercy in every generation.
You have revealed your power and your glory.
You have cast down the mighty in their arrogance,
and you lift up the meek and the lowly.
You have come to help your servant Israel
You remember your promise to our forebears
And holy, holy, holy is your name. (x2)

Contributors: John Michael Talbot, alt.. ©1980 Troubadour For The Lord Music / CCLI

We Are Sent

Prayer after Communion

God of new beginnings, you draw near to us in word and
sacrament to strengthen and renew us; kindle in us the fire of
your Spirit, may your love so shine through us that all may
know your liberation. We ask this in the name of Jesus
Emmanuel. **Amen.**

Closing Song: People Look East

People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able
trim the hearth set the table.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the rose, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.
Eleanor Farjeon / 1957 David Higham Associates / OneLicense

Sending

May we go from here with hearts and lives open to the Sacred
for God calls us to take heart and be of good courage!
In assurance the Spirit goes with us, let us go with love to
prepare the way. **Thanks be to God! Amen.** Enfleshed, (alt).

Closing Announcement Loop

COMING UP:



- **This Wednesday** - Compline- 8pm Chapel
 - **Next Saturday! December 24th** - 1pm - **Christmas "eve" worship** - intergenerational worship with carols!
 - **Sunday December 25th** - **Christmas Day feast and caroling** - all welcome - Belmont House 5pm onward
- RSVP to admin@emmauscommunity.ca

No worship on December 25 or January 1. AbbeyChurch will return January 8th at 4pm for the Feast of Epiphany

admin@emmauscommunity.ca
www.abbeychurch.ca

778 557 4166 Community Cell. We would love to connect! Call, Text, Email.