



# INDEPENDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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## *FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT*

December 20, 2020



C.J. Briggs, Music Director  
Julie Lehmann, Secretary

Wendy Lavey, Liturgist  
Rev. David B. Wigger, Pastor

*Unsure of what the balance held; I touched my belly overwhelmed;  
by what I had been chosen to perform; But then an angel came one day;  
Told me to kneel down and pray; for unto me a man-child would be born.*

-Lauryn Hill, "To Zion"

## GATHERING

### Gathering Prayer

#### Prelude

#### Welcome and Announcements

#### Lighting the Advent Candles

Cook/Lehmann Family

In this season of longing,  
we light these candles in loneliness and in love,  
as a reminder of the coming light of Christ.

The Holy One will give you a sign.

**Look, the young woman is with child.**

She shall bear a son,

**and name him Emmanuel: “God is with us”**

In love, let us walk in the light of the Holy One. Amen.

#### Response

“Clear Out the Crowded Heart”

Austin Echols

#### Call to Worship (*based on Psalm 89*)\*

Wendy Lavey

I will sing of your steadfast love, O Holy One, forever.  
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

**I will declare your steadfast love is established forever.**

**Your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.**

God exalted one chosen from the people.

God found the servant David.

**With holy oil you anointed him;**

**and forever, he shall know your steadfast love.**

In the light of love, come let us worship God.

#### Hymn

“My Song Forever Shall Record”  
(Psalm 89)

GTG #67

## **Prayer of Confession** (in unison)

**Faithful God, we know that you are always there to guide us, yet we often make plans without listening to you and discover that our human agendas can drown out our ability to hear your will for us. We repent of these faults and turn to you in love. Forgive our offenses and pardon our sins, that our lives may magnify your holy name forever. Amen. [Time of Silent Confession.]**

**Response**                      “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”                      GTG #88

## **Assurance of Pardon**

Sisters and brothers, by the faith of Christ, your sins are forgiven.  
**Blessed be the God of our salvation, whose mercy is everlasting.**

## **Passing of the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

## **THE WORD**

**Children’s Moment**    “An Angel Appears to Mary”                      Desmond Tutu  
*Children of God Storybook Bible*

## **Prayer of Illumination**

**Hebrew Bible**                      *2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16*                      (NRSV)

**Gospel**                      *Luke 1:26-38*                      (NRSV)

Hear what the Holy Spirit is telling God’s people.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem**                      “Song of Mary” (Reprise)                      GTG #99  
Words by Miriam Therese Winter; Music arr. C. Winfred Douglass

**Sermon**                      *Longing for Love*                      Rev. David Wigger

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### **Affirmation of Faith** (*from the Heidelberg Catechism*)

**Q:** What does it mean that Christ “was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary”?

**A:** That the eternal Son of God, who is and remains true and eternal God, took to himself, through the working of the Holy Spirit, from the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary, a truly human nature so that he might also become David’s true descendant, like his brothers and sisters in every way except for sin.

### **Offering**

**Response**                    “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”                    GTG #82

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

### **Prayers of the People**

*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 debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## SENDING

**Hymn**                                    “In the Bleak Midwinter”                                    GTG #144  
Words by Christina Rossetti; Music by Gustav Hoist

### **Advent Charge**

### **Postlude**

## *Suspension of In-Person Worship Continued: Session Meeting Notes*

At the Session meeting on Wednesday, December 16 the elders of IPC voted to extend the suspension of in-person worship for the next four Sunday. Worship will remain virtual for Sundays: December 20, December 27, January 3, January 10. Session will meet again on Sunday, January 10 to revisit the issue.

However, Session also voted to make an exception for the two Christmas Eve services already scheduled. And we will hold those services in-person (as well as live-streamed) for those who sign up. As of now, there is around 35 people scheduled for both the 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. services. In order to maintain the best possible COVID protocols, we please ask everyone who would like to attend in-person Christmas Eve to please sign up by either calling or emailing the office or filling out the form:

<https://forms.gle/vPuKJYAG5enpNVyD8>



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Pieces of today's liturgy are from *Presbyterian Outlook*, Roger Gench;  
*Feasting on the Word*, ed. Kimberly Bracken Long  
GTG = *Glory to God* (PCUSA Hymnal)

\*For all responsive liturgy, leader will read the parts in regular type,  
**and the congregation may respond with the words in bold.**

**Daily Prayers for Advent Reflection: Week 4**  
**December 20-24**

**Sunday, December 20**

*God of all ages, in the birth of Christ your boundless love for your people shattered the power of darkness. Be born in us with that same love and light, that our song may blend with all the choirs of heaven and earth to the glory of your holy name.*

**Monday, December 21**

*O God of Elizabeth and Mary, you visited your servants with news of the world's redemption in the coming of the Savior.*

**Tuesday, December 22**

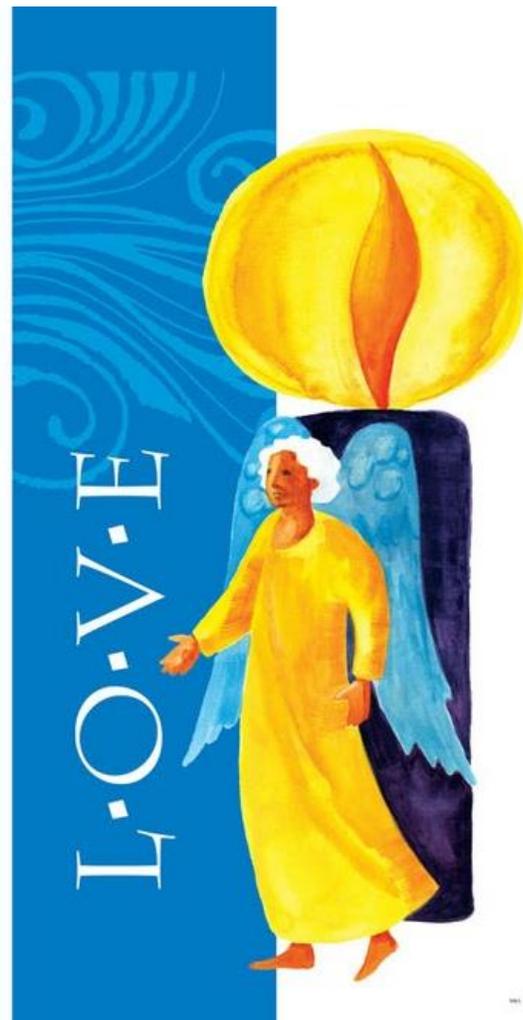
*Make our hearts leap with joy, and fill our mouths with songs of praise, that we may announce glad tidings of peace, and welcome the Christ in our midst.*

**Wednesday, December 23**

*God of promise, you have given us a sign of your love through the gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior, who was promised from ages past.*

**Thursday, December 24**

*We believe as Joseph did the message of your presence whispered by an angel, and offer our prayers for your world, confident of your care and mercy for all creation.*



From *Revised Common Lectionary Prayers*, based on Advent lectionary:  
Isaiah 64:1-9 • Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 • 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 • Mark 13:24-37