



**Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church – ELCA**

*Gathering, Growing and Giving, we encourage faith and proclaiming God's love."*

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

*Service of the Word*

Dec. 2<sup>-h</sup> 2020

**NOTE: Bold text indicates worshippers' response, and \*' means please stand as able**

PRELUDE

Jennifer Kinblom

WELCOME & MINISTRY MESSAGES

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Inspired by Romans 16*)

ONE: Gracious God, strengthen us with an understanding of your Holy Word, your Good News, which tells us you sent your Son, Jesus, to live among us.

**ALL: Your ways can be a mystery to us sometimes, and so we appreciate when the Holy Spirit inspires us with wisdom and understanding.**

ONE: Your Holy Word contains stories of how you sent prophets and others to instruct your people, to lead them in your ways.

**ALL: Today we are reminded that you also sent your angels to bring your message, and call your people to be part of what you are doing in the world.**

ONE: Help us to not be afraid of what your message may be, but instead to open our hearts and lives to your will.

\* P: The grace of the 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** 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.**

ADVENT CANDLE-LIGHTER: *Light 4 candles*

*All sing verse 4 of "One Candle Is Lit," sung to tune of "Away in the Manger"*

**Come, wander where lion and lamb gently play,  
where evil is banished and faith takes the day,  
a babe in a manger to fool the world's eyes.  
One candle is lit for God's loving surprise.**

READER/CONGREGATION

We will hear today how you sent your angel Gabriel to a young girl named Mary. We will hear her words, and be witness to her faithful responses.

**We recall times we have struggled with something you've asked of us, but we said yes.  
We know times when God has filled us and our world with blessing.**

Like Mary, sometimes we are perplexed by what you ask of us. Help us to be as open to your words as Mary was, and to say yes.

**How we long to hear these words from you, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." Fill us with your grace and light.**

Revealing God, visit us and fill us with your Spirit. Bring your good news to life within us. Give us courage to carry your light into the injustices and shadows of this world..

### GROWING

*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 of the Lord.*

\*The Gospel according to Luke, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter. **All: Glory to you O Lord.**

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He 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. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The 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. <sup>36</sup>And 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. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>Then 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 'The Magnificat' Examples of Faithfulness  
MUSIC TO MEDITATE ON *Listen and be filled with God's peace.*

Pastor Mary Eide  
Jennifer Kinblom

### GIVING

\*Today we PROFESS OUR FAITH using the words of Mary's song of praise (The Magnificat) **"My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, <sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; <sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. <sup>50</sup> His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. <sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. <sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; <sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. <sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, <sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."**

*NOTE: Giving to support God's ministry at Shepherd of the Hill can be mailed to (Mailing address: 207 University St., Elk Mound, WI 54739 – OR – by going on our website ([www.sothem.org](http://www.sothem.org)) to **GIVE** tab to make a one time or reoccurring donation.*

\* 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.**

\* PRAYERS (*Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.***)

\* LORD'S PRAYERS **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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

\* ANNOUNCEMENTS

\* BLESSING 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.**

\* ELW #672 SENDING HYMN "Signs and Wonders all verses next page

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

POSTLUDE

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today	10:00am	- Worship
Monday	7pm	- AA Meeting
Tuesday:	4-6 pm	- Food Pantry
Wednesday	12-6pm	- Blood Drive
	2pm	- LIVE with God on Facebook (Advent video series continues)
	NO CONFIRMATION CLASS	
Thursday	4pm	- Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship
	7pm	- Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship - LIVE on Facebook
Friday:	FOOD PANTRY WILL BE CLOSED	
SUNDAY:	10am	Worship NOT AT CHURCH... <b>pre-recorded</b> worship from NW Synod of Staff members on Facebook and website <a href="http://www.sothem.org">www.sothem.org</a>

## Signs and Wonders



1 Signs and won - ders lead the danc - ing from the heart God frees from fear:  
2 Hope and free - dom join the cir - cle: Mar - y to the gar - den came,  
3 Cast a - side all fear and hid - ing; hand in hand we dance the round.



wings of an - gels greet the mai - den, and God finds a dwell - ing here;  
saw the ra - diance of the mar - vel, heard the Ris - en call her name;  
God is with us, Christ, a - bid - ing, and the Spir - it's gifts a - bound.



bold - ly may we lift our hands, bow the head, and voice A - men;  
bold - ly may we heed Christ's call, step be - yond the gar - den wall:  
Called by God to ho - li - ness, let us bold - ly serve and bless;



thus does glo - ry shine at mid - night: o - pen hearts in - vite the star - light.  
beau - ti - ful the feet pro - ceed - ing with good news of death's de - feat - ing.  
and to hearts that sigh and hun - ger may our lives dance signs and won - ders.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953

Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre pseumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

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