

Service of the Word for the Home and for ZOOM  
Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 20, 2020  
10:00 a.m.

**Are You Online? Join Zoom Worship!**

Please email Caitlyn in the office at [officefelc@zoominternet.net](mailto:officefelc@zoominternet.net) to be added to the email list for a link to the service.

**Not Online? Join Us Over the Phone!**

+1 301 715 8592 US  
Meeting ID: 956 305 5281  
Password: 408299

*Today is the last Sunday of Advent! As you prepare your home worship space for Advent, consider setting up an Advent wreath—a ring of four candles or lights. There is no hard and fast rule about what color the candles have to be. Four blue candles, three purple and one pink candle, or four white candles, are traditional. You can also use LED lights or electric candles or flashlights. The image of the Advent wreath is to remind us of the light of Christ that comes into the world.*

**WELCOME AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

Blessed are you Sovereign Lord, King of Peace:  
to you be praise and glory for ever!  
The new light of your incarnate word,  
gives gladness in our sorrow,  
and a presence in our isolation.  
Fill our lives with your light,  
until they overflow with gladness and praise.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

**ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

To make our hearts ready for the Holy Spirit, let us confess the sin which separates us from God and our neighbor and seek the forgiveness God offers us in Jesus Christ.

*Silence for reflection*

Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ God gives the power to become the children of God, and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**HYMN** "People, Look East"

## People, Look East



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing  
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is  
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the  
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,  
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,  
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look  
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look  
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965  
 Music: BESANÇON, French carol  
 Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Re-printed under [oneline.net](http://oneline.net) A-734698

### GREETING

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.**

### KYRIE

HYMN OF PRAISE *O come O Come Emmanuel, sts 1 and 7*

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

O come, O King of nations, come,  
 O Cornerstone that binds in one:  
 refresh the hearts that long for you;  
 restore the broken, make us new.  
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
 shall come to you, O Israel.

## THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: 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.**

## BLESSING OF THE JESSE TREE

*Let's pray through the season of Advent! At the end of this bulletin is an explanation of the Jesse tree and devotions based on the Jesse tree symbols for each day of the week. These devotions will also be put online on our Facebook page,*

*[www.facebook.com/firstenglishbutler](http://www.facebook.com/firstenglishbutler).*

## THE WORD

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

*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.*

<sup>1</sup>Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup>the 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." <sup>3</sup>Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: <sup>5</sup>Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? <sup>6</sup>I 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. <sup>7</sup>Wherever 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?" <sup>8</sup>Now 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; <sup>9</sup>and 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. <sup>10</sup>And 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, <sup>11</sup>from 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. <sup>16</sup>Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM Luke 1:46b-55 *read responsively*

<sup>46b</sup>My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

<sup>47</sup>my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup>**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.**

**From this day all generations will call me blessed:**

<sup>49</sup>you, the Almighty, have done great things for me  
and holy is your name.

<sup>50</sup>**You have mercy on those who fear you,  
from generation to generation.**

<sup>51</sup>You have shown strength with your arm  
and scattered the proud in their conceit,

<sup>52</sup>**casting down the mighty from their thrones  
and lifting up the lowly.**

<sup>53</sup>You have filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup>**You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,  
to remember the promise of mercy,**  
<sup>55</sup>the promise made to our forbears,  
to Abraham and his children forever.

## **SECOND READING   Romans 16:25-27**

*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.*

<sup>25</sup>Now 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 <sup>26</sup>but 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 —<sup>27</sup>to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

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

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

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

## **GOSPEL       Luke 1:26-38**

The Holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke, the first chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*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.*

<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.**

**HOMILY** *online*

## NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, let us pray that God come quickly to this weary world, responding to each petition with the words, "Come and save us soon."

O God, Emmanuel, we pray: be with us. Bless your church, that strengthened by your presence we may support one another in love and together serve those in need. Give us wisdom, discernment, and the willingness to thin. Hear our prayer, O God:

**Come and save us soon.**

O God, King of nations, bring peace and justice to the countries of the world. Lead the nations of the Middle East toward peace with one another and justice for the Palestinians. Guide our elected leaders toward honest and compassionate policies that serve all the people. Preserve our nation from discord and violence. Hear our prayer, O God:

**Come and save us soon.**

O God, Key of David, look with mercy on all who are locked into despair or who live with broken hearts. Open windows to those who are isolated. Abide with all who are incarcerated. Give shelter to the homeless and the refugees. Hear our prayer, O God:

**Come and save us soon.**

O God, Root of Jesse, nurture our community. Break down the barriers that divide us, and bring an end to historic prejudices. Bless the work of feeding ministries and relief agencies. We especially remember Butler County Children and Youth Services, the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, the community dinner ministry, and the Salvation Army. Hear our prayer, O God:

**Come and save us soon.**

O God, Ruler of might, send your healing power to all in bodily need. Curb the coronavirus, and strengthen medical workers. For those with COVID-19 we pray: . . . Guide all world health organizations and government officials in the distribution of the vaccines, and calm our fears. Hear our prayer, O God:

**Come and save us soon.**

O God, you chose Mary to bring your son into the world. Watch over all those women who are pregnant in these days, and all parents who are tending infants. We especially remember babies in the NICU, especially Tyler Jacob. Hear our prayer, O God,

**Come and save us soon.**

O God, Dayspring everlasting, we remember all who have died and now live in your light, those we name here before you: . . . Gather us to yourself, when we join with all the faithful of every time and land to sing Mary's hymn of praise.

Hear our prayer, O God:

**Come and save us soon.**

We cannot thank you enough, O Emmanuel, for your ongoing presence among us. Remain with us, and receive our prayers, for the sake of the Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Finally, as Jesus have taught us, we are bold to pray:

**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.**

## **THE SENDING**

### **BLESSING**

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever.  
**Amen.**

**HYMN**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY**

Pastor Kimberly van Driel	<b>Presiding Minister</b>
Sandy Lefebvre	<b>Assisting Minister</b>
Susan Farrell	<b>Reader</b>
Jim Cunningham	<b>AV Assisting Minister</b>
Heather Helsel	<b>PowerPoint Assisting Minister</b>
Bob and Karen Domanski	<b>Counters</b>

Flowers are given to the glory of God by Dorothy Croupe, in loving memory of Clyde Croupe.

**THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH**

Monday, 12/21	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	5:00 PM	NA Meeting
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting
Tuesday, 12/22	5:00 PM	NA Meeting
Wednesday, 12/23	7:00 PM	AA Meeting (Social Hall)
	7:00 PM	Advent online service
Thursday, 12/24	4:00 PM	Zoom Christmas Eve Service, child-friendly
	6:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion at Starlight Drive-In
	9:00 PM	Zoom Candlelight Service
	5:00 PM	NA Meeting
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting
Saturday, 12/26	9:00 AM	AA Meeting
	12:00 PM	NA Meeting

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Christmas Eve Service Information**

- 4:00 pm: Family-Friendly Christmas Eve Service on Zoom
- 6:00 pm: Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion at Starlight Drive-In, in conjunction with Trinity.  
Pastor Kimberly will preach, Pastor Joel Benson will preside.
- 9:00 pm: Candlelight Christmas Eve Service on Zoom

*Zoom information—link, telephone numbers, ID, and passcodes will be the same as for our Sunday services.*

**EPIPHANY January-February 2021**

Hymn #507 in ELW Hymnal – “O God of light, your word a lamp unfailing,  
shall pierce the darkness of our earthbound way...”

As a part of this church year season, which follows Christmas, we ask for help from each of you!  
You will receive a letter from FELC about designing a star to be hung at the church. It will include helpful information.

The star from your family will join with the stars of all the other families!

Further information is on its way about the art pieces, date to be completed, etc.

Please watch for a letter in your mailbox (to come a little later in December)! Looking forward to hearing from you!

### **PRAYERS**

Zack, Sue Morrow, Joan, Joey Lash, Andrea Dubler, Janice Critchlow, Pastor Karl Schoch, Anne Ferguson, the family of Dan Hanczar, Jeanette Cunningham, Marsh Miller, Ida Miller, Helen Wagner, Deanna Golden, the Lawson family, the Bodnar family, Tyler Jacob Huey, Meredith, Mary and Eleanor, Larry, Frederick Miller, Edna Hartman, Jim Buehler, Justin Buehler, Cyndy Halin, Gene Fozard, Cindy Regis & her daughter Angie, Josh, Aryl Bashline, Dave and Diana Braun, David and Gina & family, Ida Miller, Shirley Sellers, Crystal, the family of Mary Heist, Gayle Wynn, Mary Maloney, the family of Ryan Warheit, the family of Scot Taylor, Claude, Audrey & Jonah Clark, Ed Beck, the family of Jim Templet, all those affected by the wildfires in California and Colorado, the family of Edgar Nieto, the family of Marjorie Ellis, Anita, the family of Frances Cypher, Jamie and Kaitlin Sprague, Graham Cannon, Becky Wyckoff, Larry Hamil, Jan Nieto, the family of Mildred Dollhopf, Sandy Snyder, David and Emma Lee Hartle, the family of Hailey Matheson, Ryan, Forest and Marietta White, Christine Pflugh, Asyiah, the family of Nancy, the family of Jean Purvis, Joyce Hall, Bruni Bilowich, Karen Vavro, Doug Horner, Sandy, Lisa, Wendy, Rhonda, Judy M., Mary Ellen, Claudia, Karen, Kitty Walker, Hope & Bruce Keeler, Gina Ambrosio, Elizabeth, Jena Wright, Tad Sellers, Ralph D'Antonio.

### **NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**

#### **Isaiah 61:10--62:3**

*Clothed in garments of salvation*

#### **Psalm 148**

The splendor of the LORD is over earth and heaven. (*Ps. 148:13*)

#### **Galatians 4:4-7**

*Children and heirs of God*

#### **Luke 2:22-40**

*The presentation of the child*