

December 24, 2023
The Fourth Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE *“Prelude and Fugue in F-sharp Major”* Bach

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Abel, Evelyn, Diane, Gift, and Keren Tayong

... Let us walk in the light of the Lord. **Amen.**

CHORAL INTROIT *“Come to Us”* Sorenson

OPENING SENTENCES

Jesus says: I am coming soon. *Rev. 22:20*

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Look! The young woman is with child; *Isa. 7:14*

she will call him Emmanuel, for God is with us.

The mystery of the ages is now revealed. *Rom. 16:25-27*

To God be the glory forever! Amen.

Let us worship God!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

+**HYMN: GTG #143** *“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”* REGENT SQUARE

CALL TO CONFESSION *Isa. 64:6-9*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the future,
you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule.
We confess that we have not expected your kingdom,
for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment.
We accept lies as truth,
exploit neighbors,
abuse the earth,
and refuse your justice and peace.

In your mercy, forgive us.

Grant us wisdom to welcome your way,
and to seek things that will endure
when Christ comes to judge the world.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

... In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! *Isa. 40:4-5*

Thanks be to God! Amen.

HYMN: GTG #102 DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

... Emmanuel, come;

O come and save us.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Children and youth are dismissed to Sunday School

INVITATION TO OFFERING *2 Pet. 3:8-15*

OFFERTORY *“Waltz in A”* Granados

+**RESPONSE: GTG #88** VENI EMMANUEL

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (refrain)

+**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** from *The Scots Confession*

(Scotland, 1560)

When the fullness of time came God sent his Son, his eternal wisdom, the substance of his own glory, into this world, who took the nature of humanity from the substance of a woman, a virgin, by means of the Holy Ghost. And so was born the “just seed of David,” the “Angel of the great counsel of God,” the very Messiah promised, whom we confess and acknowledge to be Emmanuel, true God and true man, two perfect natures united and joined in one person.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 O.T. page 220

PSALM Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

Your love, O LORD, forever will I sing;
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

For I am persuaded that your steadfast love is established forever;

you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.

“I have made a covenant with my chosen one;

I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

‘I will establish your line forever,
and preserve your throne for all generations.’”

You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people:

“I have set the crown upon a warrior
and have exalted one chosen out of the people.

I have found David my servant;
with my holy oil have I anointed him.

My hand will hold him fast
and my arm will make him strong.

No enemy shall deceive him,
nor shall the wicked bring him down.

I will crush his foes before him
and strike down those who hate him.

My faithfulness and steadfast love are with him,
and he shall be victorious through my name.

I will set his hand on the sea,
and his right hand on the rivers.

He will say to me, ‘You are my father,
my God, and the rock of my salvation.’

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Romans 16:25-27 N.T. page 126

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 1:26-38 N.T. page 43

RESPONSE TO SCRIPTURE *Isa. 40:8; Mark 13:31*

Heaven and earth will pass away
but the word of the Lord stands forever.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM *“The Lamb of Christmas”* Bible/Fettke

SERMON “The Throne of His Ancestor David” Rev. Bill Pinches

+**HYMN: GTG #147** *“The First Nowell”* THE FIRST NOWELL

+**BLESSING** *1 Thess. 5:16-24*

May the God of peace make you holy
and the power of the Spirit sustain you
until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Alleluia!

+**CHARGE** *Isa. 40:3; Mark 1:3*

Prepare the way of the Lord!
Amen!

+**CHORAL BENEDICTION** *“Come to Us”* Sorenson

POSTLUDE *“Intermezzo in e”* Ponce

You are invited to join us
for fellowship and refreshments
after worship in the Memorial Room.
It is not necessary to remain seated during the postlude.

SERVING US TODAY

Liturgist: Nancy Sue MacDonald
Greeters: Vicki Drown and Kelli Green
Sound: Marty Subject
Livestream: Tami Chapman
Security: Dan Baker

CHURCH HISTORY IN MINIATURE

#65. *Philippians*:

Paul probably wrote his letter to the Christians in Philippi while under house arrest in Rome, about ten years after he first visited the Roman colony. (c. AD 60-62)

THE STUDY CATECHISM

Question 120. What is prayer?

Prayer means calling upon God whose Spirit is always present with us. In prayer we approach God with reverence, confidence and humility. Prayer involves both addressing God in praise, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication, and listening for God's word within our hearts. When we adore God, we are filled with wonder, love and praise before God's heavenly glory, not least when we find it hidden in the cross of Golgotha. When confessing our guilt to God, we ask for forgiveness with humble and sorry hearts, remembering that God is gracious as well as holy. When giving thanks to God, we acknowledge God's great goodness, rejoicing in God for all that is so wonderfully provided for us. Finally, when calling upon God to hear our requests, we affirm that God draws near in every need and sorrow of life, and ask God to do so again.

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MINISTERS

All Members

STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Bill Pinches
Parish Associate: Rev. Dr. Jim Hegedus
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Charlie Herrick
Spiritual Growth Director: Lori Filka
Office Manager: Sheren Wright
Sanctuary Choir Director / Bell Choir Director: Deb Melse
Choral Music Accompanist / Organist: Feng Kang
Office Assistant: Nancy Sue MacDonald
Sexton: Eric VanDyke
Adult Spiritual Growth Coordinator: Michelle Mackey
Child Care: Jill Castle, Aimee Cruickshank, Isaiah Hawkins, Hannah Koutz, Jasmine Leffew, Sam Pinches, Lucy Simons

ELDERS

Class of 2023: Bruce Archer (clerk), Tim Hammond, Mary Ozee, Steve Sowles.
Class of 2024: Jerry Ambrose, Lucinda Davenport, Loren Harkness, Tonya Seely.
Class of 2025: Doreen Chapman, Anita Cote, Mary Garland Jackson, Monte Shuck.
Elders-Elect: Bruce Archer, Ginnie Gibson, Jane Hamelink, Tim Hammond

DEACONS

Class of 2023: Lisa Castle, Jay Harkness, Vern Schrock.
Class of 2024: Donna Hujsak, Issie Nielsen, Camille Subject.
Class of 2025: Marge Clarke, Julie Dart, Timothy Pinches, Tom Seely.
Deacons-Elect: Ron Dlouhy, Sandy Leutscher, Nancy Sue MacDonald

DAILY PRAYER

Book of Common Worship: Daily Prayer (2018)

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Today	Adult Sunday School	11:15 am
Monday	Church Office closed (<i>Merry Christmas!</i>)	
Wednesday	Lunch Packing for Advent House	10:30 am
Friday	Church Office closed / Pastor's Sabbath	

BIRTHDAYS

Susan Blonshine	Dec. 24
Dave Barber	Dec. 27
Lisa Castle	Dec. 28
Aimee Cruickshank	Dec. 28
Beckett Barber	Dec. 30
Caidra VanDyke	Dec. 30

Mason First Presbyterian Church

December 24, 2023
Fourth Sunday of Advent



The Annunciation
Our Lady of Pity Catholic Church
Swaffham, United Kingdom

*The fruit of the Spirit
is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity,
faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
(Galatians 5:22-23)*