

First Christian Reformed Church
Lynden, Washington
December 20, 2020
Fourth Sunday in Advent

Advent Scripture – Faith: *Luke 2:26-32*

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Prayer

Call to Worship: *Isaiah 60:1-2; 40:5*

*“Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.
See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the LORD rises upon you
and his glory appears over you.
And the glory of the LORD will be revealed,
and all people will see it together.
For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”*

God’s Greeting

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King:
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die;
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”

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Call to Confession: *Jeremiah 3:25*

*Let us lie down in our shame,
and let our disgrace cover us.
We have sinned against the LORD our God,
both we and our ancestors;
from our youth till this day
we have not obeyed the LORD our God.*

Prayer of Confession

Assurance: *John 8:12; John 12:46*

*When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said,
“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me
will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”
I have come into the world as a light,
so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.*

Ministry of Music: *Mary’s Boy Child*

Morning Prayer

Love Has Come!

Love has come a light in the darkness!
Love explodes in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
Hear how their song of joy arises: Love! Love!
Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love!
Glory to God on high.

Love has come He never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us;
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking. Love! Love!
Love is the gift of Christmas; Love! Love!
Praise to You, God on high!

("Love Has Come!" words by Ken Bible; Music French carol melody; attributed to Saboly, 17th c.; arranged by Tom Fetteke; text © 1996 and this arr.
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Scripture: *Luke 1:5-25; 57-66 (ESV)*

⁵In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. ⁷But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.

⁸Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, ⁹according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense.

¹⁰And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. ¹¹And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. ¹²And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. ¹³But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. ¹⁴And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. ¹⁶And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, ¹⁷and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared."

¹⁸And Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." ¹⁹And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time." ²¹And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. ²²And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute. ²³And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

²⁴After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, ²⁵"Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people."

⁵⁷Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. ⁵⁸And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. ⁵⁹And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, ⁶⁰but his mother answered, "No; he shall be called John." ⁶¹And they said to her, "None of your relatives is called by this name." ⁶²And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. ⁶³And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And they all wondered. ⁶⁴And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. ⁶⁵And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea, ⁶⁶and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, "What then will this child be?" For the hand of the Lord was with him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message: *What Child is This?*

John and Elizabeth's Son, John the Baptist

Prayer

Redeeming Love

From God's heaven to a manger, from great riches to the poor,
Came the holy Son of God, a little Child;
From the azure halls of heaven to a lowly manger stall,
Jesus came, and here He gave His life for all.

Refrain: Redeeming love, a love that knows no limit;
Redeeming love, a love that never dies;
My soul shall sing throughout the endless ages
The adoration of this great love on high.

From a loving heavenly Father, to a world that knew Him not,
Came a man of sorrows, Jesus Christ, the Lord;
In my wandering Jesus found me, touched my life with His great love,
And this Babe has grown to be my sovereign Lord. *Refrain*

("Redeeming Love" words by Gloria Gaither; music by William Gaither; adapted by Ronn Hutt © 1963, 1976 by William Gaither CCLI #358926, Streaming License #20317932)

God's Blessing

Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne

When the heavens shall ring and the angels sing
At Thy coming to victory.
Let Thy voice call me home, saying,
"Yet there is room, there is room at my side for thee."
And my heart shall rejoice, Lord Jesus,
When Thou comest and callest me.

("Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne" words by Emily F. S. Elliot, tune by Timothy R. Matthews, Public Domain, CCLI# 358926 Streaming License #20317932)

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Prayer: Bill V

Advent Readers: Mike & Shelby B

Music: Ken & Lisa Q, Maya M, Nancy Z

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** Offering can be dropped off or mailed to the church office (1010 Front Street, Lynden, WA 98264), sent through Tithe.ly (www.tithe.ly) or a bill pay service.