

**Order of Worship
for
The Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 24, 2023**

**CALL TO WORSHIP
“Soon and Very Soon”**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETING & PASSING OF THE PEACE

*On this Sunday we gather for worship in the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.*

Amen!

*The peace of the Lord be with you always!
And also with you!*

Please, feel free to pass the peace as you feel comfortable!

**HYMN OF PRAISE
“Now the Feast of Celebration”
ELW 167**

PRAYER

*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.*

SONG
"Hope of Jesse's Tree"

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING
Love

Today we light the Candle of LOVE. With this flame we signify the love of God that surrounds and fills us at all times. But in this season we recognize this LOVE in a special way. There is no power greater than God's kind of LOVE. It is stronger than empires and rulers, stronger than grief or despair, stronger even than death. Because of the Gift of Love, God's Son, that came down from heaven, we learn to LOVE because we now know that God first loved us.

(Candles of Hope, Joy, Peace and Love are lit)

HYMN
"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
ELW 257

READING
2nd Samuel 7:1-11 & 16
The lesson is 2 Samuel,
chapter seven, verses one through eleven, and verse sixteen.
Samuel and the prophets write:

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

⁴ But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, ⁵ "Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶ 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. ⁷ 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?' ⁸ 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, ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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, ¹¹ 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.

¹⁶ Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever."

GOSPEL

Luke 1:26-38

**The Gospel reading is from the Gospel of Luke,
chapter one, verses twenty-six through thirty-eight.**

Luke writes:

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

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

“Candy Cane”

Rev. Steve Albertin

What does the candy cane represent?

Listen in, as Pastor Steve explains to the kids!

MESSAGE

“The Greatest Miracle”

Rev. Steve Albertin

In the history of the Christian Church, Mary, the Mother of our Lord, has either been over emphasized or virtually ignored.

Today’s Gospel (The Annunciation) calls our attention to Mary not just because of her important role in Biblical history but also because she reflects the struggle to trust the grace of God.

The biological impossibility of the “virgin birth” seems to be the greatest miracle here. But the greatest miracle here is the faith of Mary.

Mary had every reason not to believe Gabriel. The biggest obstacle was her own self-doubt and low status in her world. Nevertheless, she trusted the announcement of Gabriel and believed that she was “special” in the eyes of God.

In a world where we are haunted by the same fears and doubts, it will also take a miracle for us to believe that we are “special.”

That miracle happens when the angels (like Gabriel) announce to us (like Mary) that we have found favor with God. Why? Because of the one whose birth we are about to celebrate!

SONG
“Cherish That Name”

OFFERING

Your offerings are more than just money to keep the lights turned on. Your gifts help to sustain and expand all of our ministries here at King of Glory, including those which provide direct assistance to those in our community who are in need. We are grateful for all of the gifts we receive, and we strive to be good stewards of the resources you provide to us.

**If you wish to give online, you can [use our app](#)
Or, go to our website at <https://kogcarmel.org/give>**

HYMN
“We Are an Offering”
ELW 692

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH
THE 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 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.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*During this time, we pray for all those who need God's blessings, and praise Him
for the blessings He has bestowed upon us.*

*During the prayers, there will be a time of silence, when we offer our personal
prayers to God.*

*Today we pray for Wes, Bill, Joelyn, Mark, Bob, Alan, Carol, Chris, Tracy,
Ashlee, Soyong, Linda, Jeannie, Joyce, Randy & Mary, Jillian*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

We prepare to receive the sacraments of Holy Communion, by remembering the words and actions of Jesus during the Last Supper.

All baptized Christians who seek the blessings of Christ's true body and blood in the bread and wine of Holy Communion are welcome at his table. There, they receive him and the new life he offers.

Those who eat and drink at his table commit themselves to the care and redemption of all that God has made.

If you are not baptized, contact Pastor Albertin to learn how you can receive the great gift God has for you in baptism.

Today you are welcome to join us at Christ's table.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right to give You our thanks and praise, O God...

Therefore, with our hearts lifted high, we offer You thanks and praise, mixed with the eternal blessings offered even now by Your angels and archangels, as we join them in that praise of You today!

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

In the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take and eat, this is My body, broken for you. Eat this, and remember Me."

After supper, He took the cup, gave thanks and gave it to all to drink, saying, "This cup is the New Covenant, written in My blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of all sin. Drink this, and remember Me."

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven
hallowed be Your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are Yours
now and forever.
Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

***For those worshipping in-house,
we invite you to come forward if you wish.
If you prefer to take communion at your seat,
you may do so.***

***For those joining us online,
If you are able,
we invite you to take communion where you are,
using any kind of bread and either wine or grape juice
so that you may receive the body and blood of our Lord and Savior,
Jesus the Christ.***

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Now, may the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, keep you in His grace and peace, now and forever. Amen!

SONG

“Joy Has Dawned”

BENEDICTION

*May the Lord bless you and keep you; May the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; May the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you God’s peace; in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.*

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Minister: Rev. Dr. Steve Albertin

Pianist & Sounds of Glory Director: David Moscrip

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