

**† HOME SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER †**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**December 20, 2020**

**PRELUDE**

The Angel Gabriel

Anne Krentz Organ

**INVOCATION and CONFESSION**

**P** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** The Lord your God is with you, He is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, He will quiet you with His love.

**C** **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid:

**C** **Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**P** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

**P** Give glory to the coming King.

**C** **O come, let us worship Him.**

**P** The Spirit and the Church cry out:

**C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P** Jesus Christ is the light of the world;

**C** **the light no darkness can overcome.**

**P** Let Your light scatter the darkness and illumine Your Church.

**C** **We wait for You in hope, peace, and joy.**

*(The four outer candles are lit)*

**ADVENT CANTICLE**

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits.

The King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.

Life and salvation He doth bring; therefore rejoice and gladly sing.

To God the Father raise Your joyful songs of praise.

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple set apart  
from earthly use for heav'n's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.  
So shall your Sov'reign enter in and new and nobler life begin.  
To God alone be praise for word and deed and grace!

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P Let us pray:

**C Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come to help us by Your might, that through Your abundant grace and mercy we may be free from the weight of sin and ready to receive You; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

<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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## **EPISTLE**

Romans 16:25-27

<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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORY

P The virgin will conceive, and will give birth to a son;

**C He will be called Immanuel – “God with us.”**

P The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David;

**C His reign will never end.**

## GOSPEL

Luke 1:26-38

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 1st chapter.

**C 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.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to You, O Christ.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Confirmation Students

## HYMN OF THE DAY

Jesus, Name Above All Names

Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, glorious Lord,  
Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, living Word.

Jesus, loving Shepherd, vine of the branches, Son of God,  
Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor, Lord of the universe, light of the world.

Jesus, way of salvation, King of kings, Lord of lords,  
the Way, the Truth, and the Life, mighty Creator, my Savior and friend.

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## SERMON

"Reflections on the Reading - 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16" (Page 7)

Rev. Dr. Robert Hartwell

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

**C I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

**P** God of power and might, come quickly to this weary world and hear our prayers for the church, the world, and everyone in need.

**P** Gracious God, all generations call You blessed. In this holy season we pray for all people of faith. Cultivate understanding among us and strengthen us in love and service to our community. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

**P** Righteous God, You humble the powerful and lift up the lowly. We pray for the leaders of all nations, that they respond to the voices of those entrusted to their care. Guide all people to create societies in which everyone can flourish. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

**P** Compassionate God, You fill the hungry with good things. Nourish those who do not have the food and nutrition they need. Bless the work of community partnerships and food pantries, and encourage our resolve to provide for our neighbors. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

**P** Healing God, You pour out mercy to all who cry out to You. Strengthen medical professionals and first responders who are overwhelmed. Comfort any who are feeling lonely, anxious, or afraid, and surround everyone in need of healing with Your tender presence. We pray especially for those on our prayer line and those we remember before You now...(PAUSE).

Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

P Eternal God, You are faithful to all Your promises. We give thanks for the ministry of those who organized, planned, dreamed, encouraged, and reached out as they served You. Inspire us with their steadfast witness, and embrace with Your great love all who mourn. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

P Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray:

**C 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.**

**CLOSING HYMN**

My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord

My soul now magnifies the Lord; my spirit leaps for joy in Him.  
He keeps me in His kind regard, and I am blest for time to come.

For He alone who shows such might has done amazing things to me.  
His mercy flows; His name like light remains in time perpetually.

His arm is strong; His strength is great. He scatters those of proud intent  
and casts them down from high estate, then gives the low His nourishment.

He feeds the hungry as His own; the wealthy leave with empty hands.  
He gives His help to Israel; His gracious promise always stands.

**BENEDICTION**

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and  
be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**C Amen.**

P Go in peace to serve the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

Vom Himmel hoch

Wilbur Held

\* \* \* \* \*

**Special thanks to our additional participants in today's service:**

**Lector**

Lauren Perotto

**Children's Message**

Confirmation Students  
Sarah Nunes, Instructor



**Village Lutheran Church and The Chapel School**  
**172 White Plains Road, Bronxville, NY 10708**  
**914-337-0207 + [www.VLC-NY.ORG](http://www.VLC-NY.ORG)**

# Reflections on the Reading by Rev. Dr. Robert Hartwell

December 20, 2020

## *Reflections on the Reading : 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16*

<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."

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## Reflections:

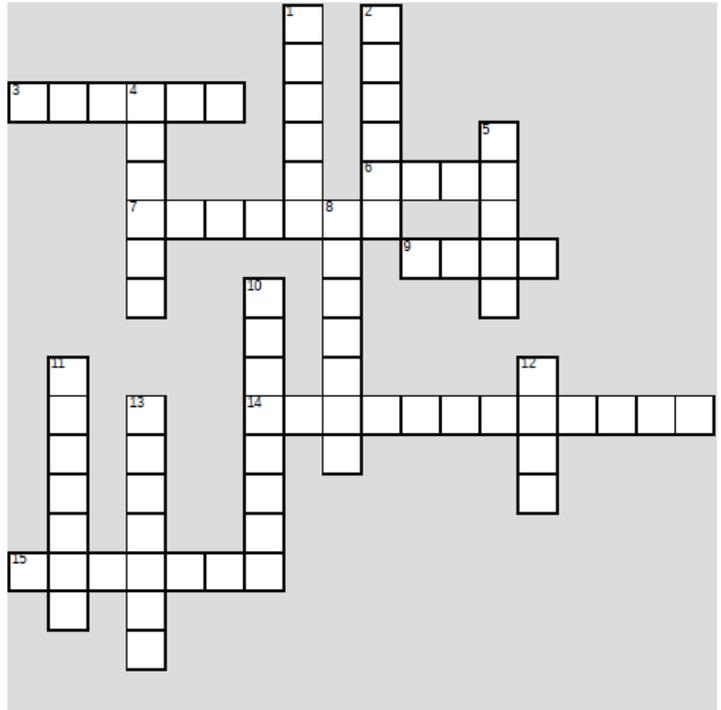
1. The message of the reading is hopeful. King David's chaotic life finally settled, and he could focus on his passion.
2. King David wanted to build God a Temple. God wanted something more lasting.
3. Jesus is that forever Temple where God dwells among His people.
4. The Apostle Paul says this was always the plan. He calls it "the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed."
5. The Virgin Mary is told by the Angel that her child, Jesus, will receive the Throne of David.

Reflections  
on  
the  
Reading

## Personal Notes:

# Reflections Crossword

Puzzle:



## Across

- 3 Which Sunday of Advent?
- 6 Name of the book that is the Gospel Reading.
- 7 The \_\_\_\_\_ Paul say this was always the plan.
- 9 Writer of the book of Romans.
- 14 We call the Angel's announcement to Mary, the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 15 The message of the reading is \_\_\_\_\_.

## Down

- 1 Church liturgical season we are currently observing.
- 2 King David wanted to build God a \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 Name of the book of the second reading.
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ is that forever Temple where God dwells among His people.
- 8 God wanted something more \_\_\_\_\_.
- 10 Name of the book of the first reading.
- 11 King David's chaotic life finally settled, and he could focus on his \_\_\_\_\_.
- 12 The Virgin \_\_\_\_\_ is told by the Angel that her child, Jesus, will receive the Throne of David.
- 13 He calls God's plan, "the \_\_\_\_\_ that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed."

## WORD LIST:

- |              |         |         |        |
|--------------|---------|---------|--------|
| 2_SAMUEL     | FOURTH  | LUKE    | PAUL   |
| ADVENT       | HOPEFUL | MARY    | ROMANS |
| ANNUNCIATION | JESUS   | MYSTERY | TEMPLE |
| APOSTLE      | LASTING | PASSION |        |