

**A Service of Morning Prayer**  
**December 18, 2022**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**



**THE CANDLES OF ADVENT**

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: LOVE**

**INTROIT** 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 thee, O Israel.

**VOICE** Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of Love.

**VOICE** Jesus shows us God's perfect love. He is God's perfect love in human form.  
 Those who believe in him and live in him, live in love. Love transforms and  
 perfects all things. It never ends.

**VOICE** We light this candle today to remind us that God is love. We thank God for hope  
 he gives us, for the peace he bestows, for the joy he pours into our hearts, and  
 for the love that redeems us and shows us the way.

*Light the First, Second, Third and Fourth Candle*

**VOICE** Let us pray -- O God of Love, Emmanuel, send your light into our hearts at this  
 time. Help us to be ready for the time of Christ's appearing. Grant that we may  
 so dwell in him that his perfect love fills our entire ready to show that love to  
 the whole world - both today - and forevermore. Amen.

A virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall  
 be called Emmanuel: God with us. *Matthew 1.23*

CP 98 Hark the Glad Sound! The Saviour Comes

1 Hark the glad sound! The Saviour comes,  
the Saviour promised long;  
let every heart prepare a throne,  
and every voice a song.

3 Christ comes, the broken heart to bind,  
the bleeding soul to cure,  
and from the treasuries of grace  
to bless the humble poor.

2 Christ comes, the prisoners to release  
in Satan's bondage held;  
the gates of brass before him burst;  
the iron fetters yield.

4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
thy welcome shall proclaim;  
and heaven's eternal arches ring  
with thy beloved name.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
And the love of God,  
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
Be with you all.

**And also with you.**

May his grace and peace be with you.

**May he fill our hearts with joy.**

Almighty God,

**To you all hearts are open,  
All desires known,  
And from you no secrets are hidden.  
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 Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 *Refrain* Let the King of glory enter.

80:1 Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth

80:2 before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us!

80:3 Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

80:4 O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

80:5 You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure.

80:6 You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.

80:7 Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

80:17 But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself.

80:18 Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.

80:19 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Reading from Isaiah 7:10-16

7:10 Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying,

7:11 Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.

7:12 But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.

7:13 Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also?"

7:14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.

7:15 He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

7:16 For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

CP 89 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vss 1-4)

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.

3 O come, O come, great Lord of might,  
who to your tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times once gave the law,  
in cloud and majesty and awe. [Refrain]

***Refrain:***

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel!***

4 O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem,  
from every foe deliver them  
that trust your mighty power to save,  
and give them victory o'er the grave. [Refrain]

2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
who orders all things mightily;  
to us the path of knowledge show,  
and teach us in her ways to go. [Refrain]

A Reading from Romans 1:1-7

1:1 Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,

1:2 which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures,

1:3 the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh

1:4 and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,

1:5 through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name,

1:6 including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

1:7 To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

CP 89 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vss 5-7)

5 O come, O Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery. [Refrain]

***Refrain:***

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel!***

6 O come, O Dayspring from on high,  
and cheer us by your drawing nigh;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadow put to flight.  
[Refrain]

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind  
in one the hearts of humankind;  
O bid our sad divisions cease,  
and be for us our Prince of Peace. [Refrain]

The Gospel

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew  
**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Matthew 1:18-25

1:18 Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

1:19 Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly.

1:20 But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

1:21 She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

1:22 All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

1:23 "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."

1:24 When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife,

1:25 but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of Christ

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sermon by the Rev. Alison Westervelt

CCLI 7005511 Your Name

1 Humbly to the earth You came  
Born into this world to save  
God with us Emmanuel  
Now we adore Your Name

2 Jesus in Your Name we pray  
Come and fill our hearts today  
Lord give us strength to live for You  
And glorify Your Name

***Chorus***

***Your Name is a strong and mighty tower  
Your Name is a shelter like no other  
Your Name let the nations sing it louder  
For nothing has the power to save  
(But Your Name)***

***Interlude***

Wonderful Counselor Prince of Peace

***Ending***

God with us Emmanuel  
God with us Emmanuel  
God with us Emmanuel  
Now we adore Your Name

Affirmation of Faith (The Apostles' Creed)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven.  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again  
to judge the living and the dead.**

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

## Prayers of the People compiled and led by the Rev. Alison Westervelt

We thank you Lord for the promise of your presence when we are gathered in your name. Help us to be mindful that you are with us as we meet to pray and bring our requests to you saying, Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

### **Hear our prayer.**

In our uncertain world we bring before you today our concerns:

We are sometimes fearful of the condition of the world with the evidence of so much cruelty and greed. Have mercy on our world and all humankind. We pray for all leaders of nations, that they would gain vision to understand the important issues of our time. May they have courage to uphold what you have taught us to be just and right.

This morning we pray for countries where there is war and hunger and poverty.

That those in authority will put the well being of all the people they represent and serve ahead of their own gain or ambitions. Lord in your mercy,

### **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the church throughout the world, the great family of which we are a part:

- For the Anglican Church of Korea
- For the Diocese of Montreal and her Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Mary Irwin Gibson.
- For the retired clergy of the Diocese of Edmonton: Bishop Jane Alexander; Aubrey Bell; Kathy Bowman; Gwen Bright; Penny Bruce; Carol Canton; Joanne Chambers; Rick Chapman; Eileen Conway; Bruce Cowley; Maureen Crerar; Tom Dean; and Terry Dunn.
- For our Bishop, Stephen and all who serve in this Diocese
- For our own community of St. Peter's, for our clergy and all who give so freely and generously of their time, talents, and treasures. We pray especially for Rev. Heather who is preparing to begin a new chapter of her ministry in a new place. May she carry with her your loving presence and may her new community be blessed by her ministry as we have been. We have confidence that your will is being done and that as an old chapter ends a new one begins and so with confidence we put our faith and hope in you that you will continue to guide St. Peter's in the path you have laid.
- For the retired pastors of Buyé, Joel Minani, Osee Niyibizi.
- For the people and community of the Louis Bull Tribe.

Give strength and wisdom to all church leaders as they share your good news. Lord in your mercy,

### **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for families:

Lord Jesus you came into the world and lived in a human family, so you know the ups and downs of normal family life. We pray for our own families and especially children as they grow up, that they might learn how to face the difficulties and celebrate the joys of everyday life.

We remember those families this year who are caught in financial difficulties, those who face unemployment and hardship. May they have the constant comfort of the knowledge of your love and care for them.

We also remember those families where lives have been shattered by the family being broken up. We ask you to heal the deep wounds that have been made and give them such a sense of your fatherly love that they may be able to form new and loving relationships.

We remember those suffering in mind, body, or spirit:

Touch with your healing hand each special one we name before you now: Sandra... Merle..... Mona..... Mary..... Irene ..... Kathryn..... Helen..... Jenifer..... Tony and Mary Jean..... Luisa..... Miranda..... Bill..... Maxime..... Geraldine.... Florence..... Joan..... Shirley and Cyril..... Mark and Blake..... Lisa..... Marijke..... Chrissie, Cathy, and the family..... Diane..... Janelle.....

In a moment of silence we name those we carry in our hearts and those known to you alone.....

That your tender mercy would reach them and fill their lives with your peace and healing grace. Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are bound by addictions, mental illness, those who are homeless, hungry, alone, isolated, that they may find the help they need and that those who care for them find the love and strength to carry on their important work. Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the repose of the soul of all who have completed their earthly journey and have begun the journey home, that they will be welcomed into your loving arms and for all of those bereaved, that they would find comfort in the sure knowledge that you are always with us.

**Hear our prayer.**

Father God, you sent your Son into the world to be the Saviour of all who believe. You promised that he will come again. At this Advent time, increase in us the attitude of watchfulness and prayer, that we might always be ready to meet him. May our lives be active in service and a witness to your living presence in our lives. Amen.

Collect

**Heavenly Father,  
who chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace,  
to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour,  
now fill us with your grace,  
that we in all things may embrace your will  
and with her rejoice in your salvation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,  
**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,  
 the power, and the glory,  
 for ever and ever. Amen.**

### CP 101 Hail to the Lord's Anointed

1 Hail to the Lord's anointed,  
 great David's greater Son!  
 Hail, in the time appointed,  
 his reign on earth begun!  
 He comes to break oppression,  
 to set the captive free,  
 to take away transgression,  
 and rule in equity.

2 He shall come down like showers  
 upon the fruitful earth,  
 and love, joy, hope, like flowers,  
 spring in his path to birth.  
 Before him on the mountains  
 shall peace the herald go,  
 and righteousness in fountains  
 from hill to valley flow.

3 Kings shall fall down before him,  
 and gold and incense bring;  
 all nations shall adore him,  
 his praise all people sing.  
 To him shall prayer unceasing  
 and daily vows ascend,  
 his kingdom still increasing,  
 a kingdom without end.

4 O'er every foe victorious,  
 he on his throne shall rest,  
 from age to age more glorious,  
 all-blessing and all-blest.  
 The tide of time shall never  
 his covenant remove.  
 His name shall stand for ever:  
 that name to us is Love.

### The Dismissal

A virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall  
 be called Emmanuel: God with us. *Matthew 1.23*

Let us bless the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

Let us depart in peace and take with us the certain knowledge  
 that God is always coming into the world.

May the blessing of Christmas make us a blessing to others.

May the love of the season pervade all that we do.

Let us go forth in hope, peace, joy, and love.

**Thanks be to God.**