

Morning Prayer, Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Welcome

**Sentence**

I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to his word. *Luke 1.38*

Hymn #118 O come all ye faithful

**Lighting the Advent Wreath Candle: Advent 4**

(Presiding Celebrant)

On this fourth Sunday in Advent our focus is on the humble Jewish maiden chosen to give birth to the Saviour of the world. As we hear the story of the angel's promise to Mary, so may our lives be joyfully expectant of God's presence in Christ.

(A representative of the congregation)

We light four candles around the wreath reminding us that we are surrounded by the warmth of God's love as we wait for the central light of Jesus, light of the world.

**Unison Prayer:**

**Loving God, we thank you for your promise to Mary and Joseph. We wait with them for the birth of the Holy child. May we also service you by responding to your promises to us with courage and compassion. Amen.**

*Celebrant:* Our Saviour and Sovereign draws near

*All:* **O come let us worship**

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.**

**The Penitential Rite**

Dear friends in Christ,  
as we prepare to worship almighty God,  
let us with penitent and obedient hearts  
confess our sins,  
that we may obtain forgiveness  
by his infinite goodness and mercy.

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.**

**We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us,  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy upon you,  
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in eternal life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

*Minister* O LORD, open thou our lips;  
*People.* **And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.**

*Minister.* O God, make speed to save us;  
*People.* **O Lord, make haste to help us.**  
*all stand*

GLORY be to the Father, and to the Son, and to  
the Holy Ghost;

*People.* **As it was in the beginning, is now, and  
ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

*Minister.* Praise ye the Lord;

*People.* **The Lord's Name be praised.**

### **Jubilate**

*Psalm 100*

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; \*  
serve the Lord with gladness  
and come before his presence with a song.  
Know this: The Lord himself is God; \*  
he himself has made us, and we are his;  
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.  
Enter his gates with thanksgiving;  
go into his courts with praise; \*  
give thanks to him and call upon his name.  
For the Lord is good;  
his mercy is everlasting; \*  
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.  
GLORY be to the Father, and to the Son, / and  
to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever  
shall be, / world without end. Amen

Reader: A reading from the book of 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel.

*2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16*

When the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, 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." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? 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. 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?" 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; 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. 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, 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. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

**People: Thanks be to God**

## **Psalm 89**

1 Your love, O Lord, for ever will I sing; \*  
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.  
2 For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever; \*  
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.  
3 "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; \*  
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:  
4 'I will establish your line for ever, \*  
and preserve your throne for all generations.'"  
19 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.  
20 I have found David my servant; \*  
with my holy oil have I anointed him.  
21 My hand will hold him fast \*  
and my arm will make him strong.  
22 No enemy shall deceive him, \*  
nor any wicked man bring him down.  
23 I will crush his foes before him \*  
and strike down those who hate him.  
24 My faithfulness and love shall be with him, \*  
and he shall be victorious through my name.  
25 I shall make his dominion extend \*

from the Great Sea to the River.

26 He will say to me, 'You are my Father, \*  
my God, and the rock of my salvation'

Remember us, gracious God, when we cannot see your way  
and purpose, and renew in us the joy of your kingdom of light  
and life. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

### **18a The Song of Mary**

*Luke 1.46-55*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; \*  
for he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*  
the Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
He has mercy on those who fear him \*  
in every generation.  
He has shown the strength of his arm, \*  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.  
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*  
and has lifted up the lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with good things, \*  
and the rich he has sent away empty.  
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
the promise he made to our fathers, \*  
to Abraham and his children for ever.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.  
Amen.

Reader: A reading from the letter to the Romans.

*Romans 16:25-27*

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  
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-- to the  
only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

**People: Thanks be to God**

Hymn #137 what child is this

A reading from the Gospel of Luke

*Luke 1:26-38*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth,  
to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's  
name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with

you.” But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 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. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” 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. 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. For nothing will be impossible with God.” 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.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

**People: Thanks be to God**

Sermon

### **The Nicene Creed**

*Celebrant* Let us confess our faith, as we say,

**All 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:**

**by the power of the Holy Spirit**

**he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,**

**and was made man.**

**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.  
With the Father and the Son  
he is worshipped and glorified.  
He 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.**

Prayers of the people

Let us pray  
Lord have mercy upon us,  
**Christ have mercy upon us**  
Lord have mercy upon us,

**The Lord's Prayer**

*Celebrant* And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**All Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thyname,  
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.**

*The 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

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day: Defend us in the same with thy mighty power; and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger; but that we, being ordered by thy governance, may

do always what is righteous in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Prayers –December 20th, 2020

*Intercessor* Let us pray.  
Rejoicing with Mary that the word comes among us, let us offer to God our prayers, saying: Lord, hear our prayer.

May we find in Mary, the servant of the Lord, the model of our heart's willing surrender to God's call. For this let us pray to the Lord.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* May we discover in true spiritual virginity the richness of what God alone can do to make Christ come alive in Mary, in us, and in all the world. For this let us pray to the Lord.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* May the God of mystery who dwells in unapproachable light draw us more and more deeply into the path of divine wisdom beyond all human expectation. For this let us pray to the Lord.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* May our assembly of disciples be a womb and a place for the shaping of Christ by God's power, so that we may give birth to Christ from the womb of our community for the world. For this let us pray to the Lord.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* May our deepest hearts find strength in the gift of blessed hope that what God has begun to do in our world and in all our persons by Christ's saving work will be brought to its fullness by our Saviour. For this let us pray to the Lord.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* May we remember before God all who are in any need and who cry for the presence of God especially [*Names in Parish*] and those we name silently before you. For this let us pray to the Lord.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* Today in our Anglican Cycle of prayer we pray for the Parish of Bobcaygeon, Dunsford & Burnt River, its food bank, prayer shawl ministry, and support of Sleeping Children Around the World and other outreach initiatives; for the Parish of Campbellford, Hastings and Roseneath, its school breakfast and lunch programs, its weekly dinners, its Deacon's Cupboard, and support of Warkworth Hospice; and for Christ Church, Bolton, its support for Caledon Community Services, its community garden, prayer shawl ministry, Christmas stocking outreach to the King Nursing Home, and support of other local outreach programs.. For this let us pray to the Lord.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Call us to yourself, O God, as you called Mary, that we may be formed into a dwelling of holiness, giving life to all the peoples of the world through Mary's son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

COVID prayer

### General thanksgiving

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, We your unworthy servants give you most humble and hearty thanks for all your goodness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And give us, we pray, such an awareness of your mercies that with truly thankful hearts, And that we show forth your praise, not only with our lips but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, And by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

*Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together you will hear their requests: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come eternal life Father as you are good and loving and we glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, in the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

### **Advent Blessing**

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

### Announcements

#### Benediction Prayer

The Lord bless you and keep you:

The Lord make His face to shine upon you,

To shine upon you and be gracious, and be gracious unto you

The Lord bless you and keep you:

The Lord make His face to shine upon you,

To shine upon you and be gracious, and be gracious unto you

The Lord lift up the light

Of His countenance upon you,

The Lord