

Prelude
Announcements

CALL TO WORSHIP

In this season of anticipation, our hearts are filled with hope.

We await God's Promised One, who will make all things new.

GATHERING HYMN (Come Thou Long Expected....)

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ADVENT WREATH LITURGY

The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour 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."

(First, second, third, and fourth candles are lit)

Blessed is she who believed that there would be fulfillment of what the Lord said to her.

Christ is coming to make all things new! With blessed faith, we prepare him room, and we are opening to Christ, the light of the world.

HYMN (Kindle Advent Candles vs. 4)

See Insert

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Based on Isaiah 64:1-9*)

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

Amen.

Holy God of Advent, you come near to us, yet we continue to seal our hearts with indifference to a suffering world.

Tear open our hearts, and make us more compassionate.

You approach us with bundles of mercy to kindle our hope, but we continue to build our lives with the bricks of bitterness.

Tear open our anger, so we might become more forgiving.

You draw near, longing to embrace us, but we fold our arms, closing ourselves off from those all around us.

Tear open our souls, so we might become children of Advent.

God, Shaper of our lives: have mercy; Jesus, Word which does not pass away: fill us with your grace;

Holy Spirit, Giver-of-the-Light-of-peace: Shine through our lives.
Silence is kept

Even now, God approaches us, mercy transcending anger, hope overcoming despair, life triumphing over death. This is good news, my friends; this is news of great joy for each of us. Enriched in every grace, blessed with joy and hope, transformed by love, we will live as people of Advent. Thanks be to God. **Amen.**

GREETING

May the love of God, the peace of Christ, and the joy of the Holy Spirit be with you

And also with you

Kyrie

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Father God, There is no miracle as grand as birth. As we prepare for the coming of your son, Jesus, create in us new life. Transform us so that we may reflect the light of your son, and become beacons of goodness, kindness, compassion, generosity, honesty, patience, and peace, for the sake of the one whose name brings deliverance and life to all the world, Jesus Christ, infant king. **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE(All Earth Is Hopeful)

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WORD

Psalm 113

- 1 Praise the Lord!
Yes, give praise, O servants of the Lord.
Praise the name of the Lord!

- 2 Blessed be the name of the Lord
now and forever.
- 3 Everywhere—from east to west—
praise the name of the Lord.
- 4 For the Lord is high above the nations;
his glory is higher than the heavens.
- 5 Who can be compared with the Lord our God,
who is enthroned on high?
- 6 He stoops to look down
on heaven and on earth.
- 7 He lifts the poor from the dust
and the needy from the garbage dump.
- 8 He sets them among princes,
even the princes of his own people!
- 9 He gives the childless woman a family,
making her a happy mother.
Praise the Lord!

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God

ACCLAMATION (*Stand*)

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The Holy Gospel according to the 1st Chapter of Luke
Glory to you , O Lord

GOSPEL (Luke 1:26-56)

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

- 26 In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel
Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee,

- 27 to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. 28 Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favoured woman! The Lord is with you!"
- 29 Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean.
- 30 "Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favor with God!
- 31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus.
- 32 He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David.
- 33 And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!"
- 34 Mary asked the angel, "But how can this happen? I am a virgin."
- 35 The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God.
- 36 What's more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she has conceived a son and is now in her sixth month.
- 37 For the word of God will never fail."
- 38 Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true." And then the angel left her.
- 39 A few days later Mary hurried to the hill country of Judea, to the town
- 40 where Zechariah lived. She entered the house and greeted Elizabeth.

- 41 At the sound of Mary's greeting, Elizabeth's child leaped within her,
and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.
- 42 Elizabeth gave a glad cry and exclaimed to Mary, "God has blessed
you above all women, and your child is blessed.
- 43 Why am I so honoured, that the mother of my Lord should visit me?
- 44 When I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy.
- 45 You are blessed because you believed that the Lord would do what
he said."
- 46 Mary responded,
"Oh, how my soul praises the Lord.
- 47 How my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour!
- 48 For he took notice of his lowly servant girl,
and from now on all generations will call me blessed.
- 49 For the Mighty One is holy,
and he has done great things for me.
- 50 He shows mercy from generation to generation
to all who fear him.
- 51 His mighty arm has done tremendous things!
He has scattered the proud and haughty ones.
- 52 He has brought down princes from their thrones
and exalted the humble.
- 53 He has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away with empty hands.
- 54 He has helped his servant Israel
and remembered to be merciful.

55 For he made this promise to our ancestors,
to Abraham and his children forever.”

56 Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then went
back to her own home.

The Gospel of our Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

GOSPEL HYMN (My Soul Proclaims Your....)

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Sermon

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us confess our faith with these words.
We believe that Jesus took the form of a slave
so we commit ourselves to serve others.

We believe that God is love,
so we commit ourselves to reconciliation.

We believe Jesus gives us his Spirit,
so we commit ourselves to his work in the world.

We believe that God is the light of life,
so we commit to bearing God's light in our world.

We believe the Spirit speaks through us
so we commit to proclaim the good news of abundant life in the world God loves. Amen

PRAYERS (God of love**Be with your people**)
Lord's Prayer

See Insert

PEACE and OFFERING *(May be left on the plate at the back)*

The light and hope of Christ lives in each of us. The Peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you

Let us greet each other as a sign of God's peace, love forgiveness and grace. *(Please share a gesture of peace with those around you)*

OFFERTORY (As the Grains of Wheat)

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OFFERING PRAYER

Giver of all good things, as we offer these gifts to you, open our eyes to see more clearly all that we have been given and all that we have to give. Stretch our capacity to give of ourselves: our love, our companionship, and our material resources, wherever they are needed.
Amen

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

We thank You, Lord God,

For breaking into our world, our lives and our experience.

We thank You, O Christ,

For this meal of remembering, and the stories of love and grace that it tells.

We thank You, O Spirit,

For Your Presence and Your challenge for us to become agents of God's compassion.

In this moment of worship we embrace Your presence again, O God.

And we offer You our love.

In this moment of prayer we proclaim again Your dream for the world, O Saviour.

And we offer You our resources.

In this moment of giving we hear Your call again, O Lord.

And we offer You ourselves.

Use us – all that we have and all that we are to touch the world with the message of Advent:

God is love. God is with us. God will never leave us.

So, we remember Jesus' birth and life, His suffering and victory. On the night before His crucifixion, Jesus shared His last meal with His friends; He took the loaf of bread and blessed it, then breaking it, He offered it to them saying:

This is my body broken for you. Eat this in memory of me.

After the meal, He took the cup of wine and blessed it, then He offered it to them saying:

This is my blood shed for you. Drink this in memory of me.

So, we eat and we drink and we remember.

With hope and joy in the new life which comes here and now in God's kingdom.

God of Grace, Come to us again in this meal, and as we share this bread and wine, may we share in Christ's sacrifice; May we offer ourselves to you again, and may we become one with Christ and with each other – a single, unified body. **Amen**

HYMN (Come to the Table)

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INVITATION TO COMMUNION AND DISTRIBUTION

Come to the table of love. Come to the table of joy. Come to the table of Christ.

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and give you eternal life. **Amen**

HYMN (Come With Us, O Blessed Jesus)

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POST COMMUNION PRAYER

We thank you, Lord, that you have fed us in this sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet prepared for all peoples. **Amen**

BLESSING

May God, for whom nothing is impossible restore you and bless you. May Christ, in whom is the dawning of grace, carry you and gently lead you. May the Spirit, whose song is gladness, fill you with peace and comfort. **Amen**

SENDING HYMN (Joy to the World)

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Please remain seated for the Postlude