



December 20, 2020. 4th Sunday of Advent. Narrative Lectionary week 15 of year 3.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE

Prelude

Greeting

Lighting of the Advent Candle of LOVE

How do we embrace the mystery? How do we embrace the mystery of love. We remember Mary, anxious and uncomfortable, walking toward love. We remember her words of gratitude and praise in the face of worry. We remember Elizabeth, who risked shame that her pregnant young cousin could have brought her family, and walked into love. We embrace the pregnant pause, full of tension and mystery, and rejoice at the welcome Elizabeth offers. We marvel at the embrace of these two women who loved each other. They encourage us to fall open to our God with thankfulness. On this Fourth Sunday of Advent God meets us in the mystery of Love. Thanks be to God.

Hanging of the Chrismon

Hymn #198 “My Soul Gives Glory to My God”

Pastoral Prayer and Lord’s Prayer

Musical Offering Tamara Baugh
“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Luke 1:26-45 (CEB) Dave Dehnel

When Elizabeth was six months pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a city in Galilee, to a virgin who was engaged to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David’s house. The virgin’s name was Mary. When the angel came to her, he said, “Rejoice, favored one! The Lord is with you!” She was confused by these words and

wondered what kind of greeting this might be. The angel said, “Don’t be afraid, Mary. God is honoring you. Look! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and he will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father. He will rule over Jacob’s house forever, and there will be no end to his kingdom.”

Then Mary said to the angel, “How will this happen since I haven’t had sexual relations with a man?”

The angel replied, “The Holy Spirit will come over you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the one who is to be born will be holy. He will be called God’s Son. Look, even in her old age, your relative Elizabeth has conceived a son. This woman who was labeled ‘unable to conceive’ is now six months pregnant. Nothing is impossible for God.”

Then Mary said, “I am the Lord’s servant. Let it be with me just as you have said.” Then the angel left her.

Mary got up and hurried to a city in the Judean highlands. She entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. With a loud voice she blurted out, “God has blessed you above all women, and he has blessed the child you carry. Why do I have this honor, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy. Happy is she who believed that the Lord would fulfill the promises he made to her.

Sermon “Mary and Elizabeth” - Rev. Robb McCoy

RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

Hymn #196 “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

Invitation to Embrace Love

Hymn #249 “There’s a Song in the Air”

Postlude



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WEEKLY GPS

GROW

PRAY

STUDY

Coming Next:

Dec. 24	Christmas Eve	
Dec. 27	Anna and Simeon	Luke 2: 8-20
Jan. 3	Child Jesus in the Temple	Luke 2:41-52
Jan. 10	John Baptizes Jesus	Luke 3:1—22
Jan. 17	Sermon in Nazareth	Luke 4:14-30

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK: Luke 1:49

For the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is [God’s] name.”

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday	Luke 1:4-25	Infertility
Tuesday	Luke 1:39-45	Elizabeth
Wednesday	Luke 1:46-56	Magnificat
Thursday	Luke 2:1-7	God’s Census
Friday	Luke 2:8-20	The Best Gift
Saturday	John 1:1-13	The Word Became Flesh

CARING CONVERSATIONS or REFLECTIONS

- **Thinking About This Week’s Story:** God sent an angel to deliver a message to Mary. What is a message that you received today?
- **Getting Ready for Next Week’s Story:** Jesus is born, and Mary and Joseph bring him to the temple. Two godly people, Simeon and Anna, are overjoyed to see him. When have you felt joy today? When have you been sad?