



**PARISH OF THE ASCENSION**  
**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**AND**  
**LESSONS AND CAROLS**  
**DECEMBER 19, 2021 @ 11am**

**THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY**

The grace and peace of our Saviour Jesus Christ be with you,  
**And also with you.**

Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent and we light the *Candle of Joy*.

First, we lit The Candle of Hope, and reaffirmed our hope in Jesus Christ.

***THE FIRST CANDLE OF THE WREATH IS LIT.***

Then we lit The *Candle of Peace*, and we reaffirmed the importance of our being peace-makers in our world.

***THE SECOND CANDLE OF THE WREATH IS LIT.***

And then, we lit The *Candle of Love*, and reaffirmed the importance of sharing the love we have in Christ Jesus.

***THE THIRD CANDLE OF THE WREATH IS LIT.***

Now we light The *Candle of Joy*, and reaffirm the joy we find in Jesus.

***THE FOURTH CANDLE OF THE WREATH IS LIT.***

## **A CANDLE IS BURNING**

*A candle is burning, a Flame warm and bright,  
a candle of hope in December's dark night.  
While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky,  
our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.*

*A candle is burning, a candle of peace,  
a candle to signal that conflict must cease:  
For Jesus is coming to show us the way;  
a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.*

*A candle is burning, a candle of joy,  
a candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.  
Our hearts fill with wonder and eyes light and glow as joy  
brightens winter like sunshine on snow.*

*A candle is burning, a candle of love,  
a candle to point us to heaven above.  
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,  
for Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.*

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, merciful and gentle:  
to you be praise and glory for ever.  
Your light has shone in our darkened world  
through the child-bearing of blessed Mary;  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

Grant that we who have seen your glory  
may daily be renewed in your image  
and prepared like her for the coming of your Son,  
who is the Lord and Saviour of all.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

**OPENING HYMN: 89 O Come, O Come Emmanuel vs. 1, 3,  
5, 7**

## **THE COLLECT OF THE DAY**

Let us pray,  
*(Silence is kept)*

God of promise  
you look with favour on the lowly,  
you scatter the proud and you fill the hungry.  
May we, like Mary, respond to your call  
and be obedient to your will;  
through Jesus Christ who is to come. **Amen.**

**Anthem: Welcome to Our World**

**THE LIGHT OF THE ANNUNCIATION**

**Reading: Luke 1: 26 - 33**

**Carol: 123 Once in Royal David's City vs. 1, 2, 3**

**Reading: Luke 1: 39 – 55**

**Magnificat**

My soul doth magnify the Lord  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour;  
for he hath regarded the lowliness of this handmaiden.  
For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed:  
For he that is mighty hath magnified me and holy is his Name.  
And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations.  
He hath showed  
strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the  
imagination of their hearts.  
He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath  
exalted the humble and meek.  
He hath filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he hath  
sent empty away.  
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his  
servant Israel;  
As he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

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.

**THE LIGHT OF INCARNATION**

**Carol: 120 O Little Town of Bethlehem vs. 1, 2, 4**

**Reading: Isaiah 9:6**

**Anthem: The Holy Child of Mary**

**Reading: Luke 2: 1 - 7**

**Carol: 126 Away in a Manger All Verses**

### **THE LIGHT OF DECLARATION**

**Reading: Luke 2: 8 – 20**

**Carol: 135 Shepherds in the Field Abiding vs. 1 & 4**

**Anthem: What are you Dreaming Of?**

### **THE LIGHT OF REVELATION**

**Reading: Matthew 2: 1 – 12**

**Carol: 139 The First Noel vs. 1, 2, 6**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Watchful at all times,  
let us pray for strength to stand with confidence  
before our Maker and Redeemer.

That God may bring in his kingdom with justice and mercy, we  
remember the Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador Synod Office  
Staff, and those worshipping in the Province of Central Africa,  
let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

That God may establish among the nations  
his sceptre of righteousness, we pray for our Premier, Andrew  
Furey,

let us pray to the Lord:  
**Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

That we may seek Christ in the Scriptures  
and recognize him in the breaking of the bread,  
let us pray to the Lord:  
**Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

That God may bind up the broken-hearted,  
restore the sick, we remember those on the Ascension Prayer  
Cycle, and raise up all who have fallen, and for the deceased,  
especially Wes Warren:  
let us pray to the Lord:  
**Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

That the light of God's coming may dawn  
on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death,  
let us pray to the Lord:  
**Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

That, with Mary and all the saints in light,  
we may shine forth as lights for the world,  
let us pray to the Lord:  
**Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

We commend ourselves and all for whom we pray  
to the mercy and protection of our heavenly Father:  
*Silence is kept.*

Almighty God,  
as your blessed Son Jesus Christ  
first came to seek and to save the lost;  
so may he come again to find in us  
the completion of his redeeming work;  
for he is now alive  
and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**HYMN FOR THE OFFERING: 118 O Come all ye Faithful vs. 1-4**

**THE PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS**

God of abundance,  
we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation,  
and with them our very lives.  
Teach us patience and hope  
as we care for all those in need  
until the coming of your Son,  
our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

**THE LIGHT OF CELEBRATION**

**All: Let us therefore rejoice, for God, through Christ, has made us His children of Light. We are now a reflection of His glory. As we forsake the darkness of this world, we freely choose the illumination of God's truth and grace. Let us now shine our light before all people, so that by the light of our love, they may see the glory of God in all we say and do. Amen**

**Anthem: Carols of Hope and Light**

**Closing Prayer: *Rev'd Lynn Courage***

On this day of the year, a voice is speaking – can we hear it? ‘I know the cares and the anxious thoughts of the hearts. I know the hard time you often give yourselves. I know the hopes and ambitions that you have for yourselves and for others. I know your doubts, too – even while you seek to express your belief.

On this day, God wants to find a way of saying to you: You are deeply, deeply loved, just as you are, forgiven, loved and changed to be the very best you can be. So I'm speaking to you in the only way I know how – from a stable, in a child born into poverty, soon to grow to maturity, born to show you, in a human life, the love of God. Amen

**Closing Carol: 138 Hark the Herald Angels Sing All Verses**

## **THE DISMISSAL**

With love and compassion,  
**come, Lord Jesus.**

With judgment and mercy,  
**come, Lord Jesus.**

In power and glory,  
**come, Lord Jesus.**

In wisdom and truth,  
**come, Lord Jesus.**

As we await our coming Saviour,  
Let us go forth bearing God's promise to the world.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Ascension Prayer Cycle:** Aden, Alexa, Amelia, Amy, Angela, Ann, Annie, Aubrey, Audrey, Bertha, Brenda, Brian, Brittany, Brandon, Callum, Carl, Cathy, Christina, Cindy, Claire, Clarence, Connie, David, Debra, Delilah, Dennis, Derrick, Don, Donna, Doreen, Dot, Douglas, Dulcie, Ed, Baby Edward, Edie, Edgar, Elaine, Emily, Erin, Evelyn, Finnley, Frederick, Fred, Frank, Flo, Garrett, Gary, George, Gerald, Glenda, Gordon, Harry, Ike, Ina, Ingrid, Ira, Jack, Janet, Jason, Jennifer, Jenny, John, Josephine, Joan, Junior, Kent, Kevin, Kim, Laura, Leo, Leonie, Lori, Luke, Madeline, Marie, Marsha, Mark, Marion, Marylou, Maurice, Maxine, Maxwell, Melvin, Michael, Michelle, Mike, Mona, Nancy, Oskar, Pam, Peter, Rachel, Randell, Rochelle, Rodney, Roland, Ruby, Ruth, Rita, Sadie, Sam, Sean, Shirley, Stephen, Susan, Tina, Todd, Tom, Valerie and Warwick.

## Acknowledgements

The contents and structure of this liturgy are drawn from the *Book of Alternative Services* and from the following sources: (a) the collect of the day, ‘Trial Use Collects for Years A, B, and C etc. Anglican Church of Canada’, and the psalm, ‘A Liturgical Psalter. General Synod 2016 Edition. For trial use within the Anglican Church of Canada.’ (b) from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (2006), prayer over the gifts, 64; Eucharistic prayer, 110, although the preface is drawn from the *Book of Alternative Services*, alt.; prayer after communion, 65; (c) from *Common Worship: Times and Seasons*, Church of England, 2006/ 2013, Advent Wreath prayer, alt., 53; an affirmation of faith, 100; prayers of the people alt., 37; confession/ absolution, 56; introduction to the peace, 38; blessing, 41; and dismissal, 42.