



Becoming a beloved community of God where all belong.
Fourth Sunday of Advent **December 24, 2023**

Lighting of the Advent Candles - Fourth Sunday of Advent (Focus: Luke 1:26–38)

Reader 1: O God, we light the fourth candle of Advent.
(The first, second, third and fourth candles are lighted.)

Reader 1: We hear your angel Gabriel and witness the faith of Mary. Fill us with your grace and light. We recall the times we have struggled but said yes. We know times when God has filled us and our world with blessing.

Reader 2: Mary was a young, strong, spiritual woman. Even though her life was not easy, she heard God’s voice and said yes. Her song was a prayer that would uplift those who were downtrodden. Her lyrics shattered the proud and called the world to change. She would bear within her the promised child, Jesus, the Light of the World. This Advent, we respond to God’s beckoning to us as well.

People: **Revealing God, visit us and fill us with your Spirit. Bring your good news to life within us. Give us courage to carry your light into the injustices and shadows of this world. Amen.**

The Collect/ Prayer of the Day

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Readings: https://lectionarypage.net/YearB_RCL/Advent/BAdv4_RCL.html

Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 – Prayed responsively by **half** verse

- 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.’”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tonight’s Christmas Eve Services: 4:00 PM - Family Christmas Eve Service and
7:30 PM – Festive Eucharist with Prelude at 7:00 PM

Sunday, December 31 at 10:00 AM – Service of Lesson and Carols

Rooted In Abundance – **St. Nicholas 2024 Stewardship Campaign is underway. We have received 37 Giving Estimates for a total of \$157,588. The goal for 2024 is \$195,500 in Giving Estimates from 100% of households.** Every Giving Estimate is important. More than 80% of St. Nick’s income is from parishioner giving. Please submit your Giving Estimate in the offering plate or online as soon as possible.

Employee Holiday Gifts – Please put cash donations (only cash) in the brown envelopes to show your appreciation to our staff, Carolyn and Rev. Beth. You may also Venmo cash to Ruth-Willbanks; last 4 digits of telephone # 1923. Donations will be accepted through the month of December.

Angel Tree – Feel free to donate to El Hogar through St. Nicholas’ Angel Tree. Make checks payable to St. Nicholas with El Hogar on the memo line.



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