

**DECEMBER 18, 2022**  
**ADVENT 4 – *We See God in Each Other***  
FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION  
*Sunday School Christmas Pageant*



*Ringing of Bell*

PRELUDE “*Sing We Now of Christmas ...*”

CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY

L: Over a hundred people, from the ages of two to eighty years old, were asked the question, “*What makes you feel connected; what makes you feel loved?*” From the voices of different generations, hear their answers... (*dialogue*)

ADVENT FOUR CANDLES ARE LIT

HYMN: *O Come All Ye Faithful*

**ELW 264** vss.1,2,3

<sup>1</sup> O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels:

*Refrain* O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

<sup>2</sup> The highest most holy, light of light eternal,  
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;  
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

<sup>3</sup> Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God\_in\_the\_highest: *Refrain*

CALL TO CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: One of the greatest gifts and challenges of faith is that we cannot be Christians alone. We need one another. We need one another to grow. We need one another to love. And we need one another to see God more clearly. So together, let us lift our voices in unison. Let us lean into the ties that bind and pray to our merciful God. God of today and tomorrow,

**All: When Mary was pregnant and afraid, she ran to her cousin Elizabeth’s house. Elizabeth threw open the door with joy and showered blessings upon her. How often do we have that same opportunity? How often do we leave the door locked, the curtains drawn, and the lights off? How often do we shower critique and judgement instead of blessings and joy? Gracious God, forgive us for our wrongs. We want to see you when we see our neighbor.**

P: Friends, this is what I know – God delights in us. God throws open the door, just like Elizabeth, and says, “Come on home. There is room for you here!” And in that moment, we are blessed. In that moment, we are forgiven. In that moment, we are seen, healed, and welcomed home. So rest in this good news: you are saved by grace.

**All: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY *We pray together*

L: God of all,

**All: we are a mixed bag of distracted and forlorn, eager, and anxious. We hope that you might move through the obstacle course we build up around our hearts – and douse us in good news. For at the end of the day, all we want is to know that we are not alone, that you are always near. Pull us close and tell us your story of unbelievable good news. We are listening. We are grateful. Amen.**

A READING FROM LUKE 1:39-45; 56-58

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.’ <sup>56</sup>And Mary remained with her for about three months and then returned to her home.

*(The Birth of John the Baptist)*

<sup>57</sup>Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. <sup>58</sup>Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

A READING FROM LUKE 1:46-55 *We read responsively*

P: And Mary said, ‘My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

C: **for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;**

P: for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

C: **His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.**

P: He has shown strength with his arm;

C: **he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.**

P: He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

C: **he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.**

P: He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

C: **according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.’**

MESSAGE: *Intern Kris Kincaid*

SUNDAY SCHOOL YOUTH COME FORWARD, WHILE WE SING VS. 1 OF\_\_

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

**ELW 279** vs 1

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

## Christmas Pageant – “Jesus Is Born”

*from the Spark Bible*

HYMN: *Away in a Manger*

**ELW 277** All vss

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
- 2 The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care  
And fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

SUNDAY SCHOOL YOUTH RETURN TO THEIR SEATS, WHILE WE SING VS. 4 OF

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

**ELW 279** vs 4

- 4 O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
Oh come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

## APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## PRAYERS — SHARING OF PEACE

### GENEROSITY IN ACTION: OFFERING—OFFERTORY—GLOBE OFFERING

*Children are invited to bring forward an offering to the globe in the front of the church. Globe offerings will go to one of our global mission partners to be decided by our youth.*

## OFFERING PRAYER

P: Eternal God,

**C: you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION – LORD’S PRAYER – INVITATION TO COMMUNION

DISTRIBUTION HYMN *What Child Is This* **ELW 296** All vss

- 1 **What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!**
- 2 **Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!**
- 3 **So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;  
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe the son of Mary!**

COMMUNION BLESSING

*The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.*

BLESSING

P: As you leave this place, may you go knowing that from generation to generation, we have been claimed and loved. From generation to generation, God has been by our side. From generation to generation, we are not alone.

HYMN: *Go Tell It on the Mountain* **ELW 290** All vss

REFRAIN **Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev’rywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!** REFRAIN

- 1 **While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.** REFRAIN
- 2 **The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior’s birth.** REFRAIN
- 3 **Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;  
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.** REFRAIN

*Ring of Bell*

SENDING

L: The God of yesterday and the God of tomorrow  
knows you by name, loves you,  
and calls you forth, saying,  
“Go be the person you are called to be, love wildly,  
do justice, and come back soon.”

**All: May it be so. Amen.**

POSTLUDE *“Impromptu on GLORIA”*

## PARTICIPANTS

PASTOR—Julie Rogness INTERN—Kris Kincaid ASSISTANTS—Erica Aronson & Sarah Hildebrandt  
KEYB/PIANO—Annette Thunhorst GREETERS—Larry & Kaia Lehman  
COMMUNION SERVERS—Larry & Kaia Lehman  
TECH CREW—Jim Braaten, Steve Johnson, Bill Lewis, Dan Rogness, Holly Aldorfer, Heidi Haugen, Barb Groth

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

TEXTS USED WITH PERMISSION: *From Generation to Generation* – A SANCTIFIED ART by Sarah Are © 2022 -  
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PUBLIC DOMAIN HYMNS: *O Come All Ye Faithful, O Little Town of Bethlehem, Away in a Manager, What Child Is This, Go, Tell It on the Mountain.*  
*Sing We Now of Christmas*, Piano Solo, Bethany K. Smith © 2016 Lorenz Publishing Co. OL/SKU#209640  
*Impromptu on GLORIA*, Piano, Terry Kirkland © 2003 Lorenz Publishing Co. OL/SKU#1055527

## CONNECTIONS

WEBSITE: [flckenyon.org](http://flckenyon.org) FACEBOOK: [First Evangelical Lutheran Kenyon MN](https://www.facebook.com/firstevangelicalkenyonmn)  
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## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Sid Strandemo, Lila Cole, Helen Aase, Jennifer Lorfald, Carol Ronning, Joy Estrem, Carolyn Walker, Glenn Ronning

## CALENDAR

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SUN/DEC 18	9 AM	ADVENT 4 WORSHIP w/Communion – In Person & Live-Streamed <i>Sunday School Pageant during Worship</i>
	7 PM	AA
WED/DEC 21	6 PM	WED WORSHIP
	6:30-7:30 PM	GR 7-12 CHR.PARTY
	7:45 PM	Council
THU/DEC 22	7 PM	AA
SAT/DEC 24	4 PM	CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP – In Person/Live-Streamed
SUN/DEC 25	9 AM	CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP – In Person/Live-Streamed
	7 PM	AA
WED/DEC 28	----	NO Wed Worship
Sun/JAN 1	9 AM	WORSHIP w/Communion – In Person & Live-Streamed <i>CHRISTMAS/EPIPHANY Lessons &amp; Carols</i>

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- > **Christmas Plant Slips -- Due DEC 18**
- > **2023 Offering Envelopes** -- available for pick-up in the narthex.
- > **Plastic Film Collection @ First** will be discontinued December 25.
- > **Feed My Starving Children: Saturday, January 7, 2023**, 9 AM to 10:45 AM. Open to anyone (youth and adults) ages 12 and over. If under 12 need an adult chaperone. Must be over the age of 5. Location: 990 Lone Oak Road, Suite 136, Eagan, MN 55121 Follow this link to register: <http://www.fmcs.org/join-group?joincode=DBZ1NG> Or Contact: [smhildebrandt7@gmail.com](mailto:smhildebrandt7@gmail.com). Let us know if you need a ride.

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
309 Forest St., Kenyon, MN 55946

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December 18, 2022



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