

# ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN "BLUE" CHURCH

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**Fourth Sunday of Advent ✠ December 24, 2017**

PRELUDE — "SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT" — PATRICIA LOU HARRIS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into the light of grace. **Amen.**

Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

*Silence for reflection*

God of all time,

**we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.**

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. In ✠ Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news! **Amen.**

**HYMN #282** "IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR"

### ADVENT CANDLE LITURGY & LIGHTING 4<sup>TH</sup> CANDLE

P: Our world stumbles blindly toward chaos--

**C: come, source of wisdom, and reveal yourself to us.**

P: What we imagine to be strength is really weakness--

**C: come, mighty Lord, and fill us with your true strength.**

P: We look for a standard to look up to--

**C: come, Root of Jesse, claim us as your own.**

P: We languish in prisons of mind and spirit--

**C: come, Key of David, and set us free.**

P: The darkness grows thick around us--

**C: come, Light of light, and dawn upon us.**

P: We are scattered, lacking a sure leader—

**C: Come, Prince of peace, and lead us.**

P: We need to know that god is with us—

**C: come, Emmanuel, and dwell in our hearts. Amen.**

*Fourth candle is lit.*

**HYMN #789 "SAVIOR, LIKE A SHEPHERD LEAD US" (STANZA 4)**

### GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

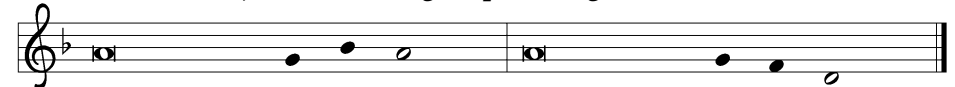
**And also with you.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray...Stir up your power, LORD Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**FIRST LESSON: 2 SAMUEL 7:1-11, 16**

**PSALM 89:1-4, 19-26** *Sung responsively* *Psalm Tone #9*



<sup>1</sup>Your love, O LORD, forever | will I sing;

from age to age my mouth will pro- | claim your faithfulness.

<sup>2</sup>**For I am persuaded that your steadfast love is estab- | lished forever;**

**you have set your faithfulness firmly | in the heavens.**

<sup>3</sup>I have made a covenant with my | chosen one;

I have sworn an oath to Da- | vid my servant:

<sup>4</sup>**I will establish your | line forever,**  
**and preserve your throne for all | generations."**

<sup>19</sup>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.

<sup>20</sup>**I have found Da- | vid my servant;**  
**with my holy oil I have a- | nointed him.**

<sup>21</sup>My hand will | hold him fast

and my arm will | make him strong.

<sup>22</sup>**No enemy | shall deceive him,**  
**nor shall the wicked | bring him down.**

23 I will crush his | foes before him  
and strike down | those who hate him.  
24 **My faithfulness and steadfast | love are with him,  
and he shall be victorious | through my name.**  
25 I will set his hand | on the sea,  
and his right hand | on the rivers.  
26 **He will say to me, 'You | are my father,  
my God, and the rock of | my salvation.'**"

**SECOND LESSON: ROMANS 16:25-27**

**VERSE**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 1<sup>st</sup> Chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

**THE HOLY GOSPEL: LUKE 1:26-38**

The Gospel of the LORD.

Praise to you, O Christ.

**SERMON**

**HYMN #269 "ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY"**

**THE PRAYERS** Response : **hear our prayer.**

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

L: The peace of the LORD be with you always.  
**C: And also with you.**

**OFFERING – "HOW GREAT OUR JOY"**

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE #884**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

A: Let us pray...Savior of the nations, come. Make your home here in us. Feed us with your love, that our faith shines ever new and our lives reveal your light. Amen.

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**C** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary...we praise your name and join unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER** *The pastor offers the prayer.*

**LORD’S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen**

**INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION**

P: Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you. Share in the feast of salvation.

**LAMB OF GOD**



☪ Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**HYMN #277 “AWAY IN A MANGER”**

**BLESSING**

The Body and Blood of our LORD Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

**PRAYER**

A: Let us pray...God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**

P: May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path. Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**HYMN #288 “GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS, REJOICE”**

**DISMISSAL**

A: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.  
**C: Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE: “VOLUNTARY ON ‘IN DULCI JUBLIO”**  
**– JAMES MANSFIELD**



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**WELCOME TO ALL IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST!**

We especially welcome those who are visiting. We invite you to sign our guest register in the narthex. Blank envelopes in the pews are for visitors.  
“God’s purpose for St. Paul’s Lutheran Blue” Church is to spread the Good News of Christ’s love for all people in the Southern Lehigh community and beyond.” –Blue Church Mission Statement, adopted 2012

**THE DAY IN THE CHURCH YEAR: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE READINGS.....**

*God keeps the promise made to David, to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David’s throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel’s greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, “Count me in.” We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, “Count us in.”*

**2 SAMUEL 7:1-11, 16:** *Instead of David building a house (temple) for the Lord, the Lord promises to establish David's house (dynasty) forever. Centuries later, after the Babylonian exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the messiah, the Lord's anointed.*

**ROMANS 16:25-27:** *Paul closes his letter to the Romans by praising God because in the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ God has revealed the promised, divine plan of salvation for all humanity. Paul proclaims this gospel of Christ in order to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations.*

**LUKE 1:26-38:** *In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people (Mary) from little-known places (Nazareth). This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in his gospel.*

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**BLUE CHURCH PRAYS FOR.....Sick/Recovering:** Anthony Abate, Clifford Benner, Joyce Christman, Doris Heiserman, Carl Ritter, Viletta Schantzenbach, Shannon Silliman, Shane  
*Note: This is a short-term list, for those who are in "acute care" situations—hospitalized or in recovery, dying, facing the recent death of a loved one, or presently facing a severe life crisis. The names of persons for whom we pray will be kept on the list for one month. If you wish to have them placed back on the list please contact the church office.*

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#### **LEADING OUR WORSHIP**

|                           |                              |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>CELEBRANT</b>          | The Rev. James Hammond       |
| <b>ORGANIST</b>           | Dr. Jennifer Dodd            |
| <b>ASSISTING MINISTER</b> | Ron Fried                    |
| <b>GREETERS</b>           | Sherry & Peter Farrell       |
| <b>LECTOR</b>             |                              |
| <b>CANTOR</b>             | Ron Fried                    |
| <b>USHERS</b>             | Roger & Gloria Knappenberger |
| <b>CHURCH COUNCIL REP</b> | Greg Storat                  |

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#### **CONGREGATIONAL BULLETIN BOARD**

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>TODAY:</b>     | <u>9 AM</u> Choir Rehearsal at Blue Church.<br><u>NO 9:30 – 10:15 AM</u> Christian Education.<br><u>10:30 AM</u> Worship                     |
| <b>WED.:</b>      | <u>9 AM</u> Quilting at Blue Church.   |
| <b>NEXT SUN.:</b> | <u>NO 9 AM</u> Choir Rehearsal.<br><u>NO 9:30 AM – 10:15 AM</u> Christian Education at Blue Church.<br><u>10:30 AM</u> Worship/Holy Baptism. |

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COMING EVENTS – mark your calendar!

**DEC. 24<sup>TH</sup> -Christmas Eve – 6 PM and 9 PM**  
**Candlelight Worship.**

**JAN. 21, 2018, 12:15 PM – “MISSION POSSIBLE”**  
**STEWARDSHIP LUNCHEON THEATER.** More information to follow.

**JAN. 28<sup>th</sup> – Annual Congregational Meeting.**

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**WEEKLY GIFTS, PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD:**  
**BULLETINS AND SANCTUARY LAMP...by Joyce**  
Christman in memory of family and friends.  
**COMMUNION BREAD & WINE...by Roger and Edie**  
Knappenberger

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**THANK YOU** to everyone involved in the Lucia Fest last week. A special thanks to Helene Parnell, Anne Nichols, Pastor Jim Hammond, Dick Storat, Jennifer Dodd, members of the Lucia Choir, Kathy Exner, and to the parents of the children who participated. Also thanks to the Lucia Fest helpers, Sherry Farrell, Julianne Link, Wendy Storat, Carol Stoudt and Loraine Kline.

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**THE COAT DRIVE IS UNDER WAY.** Don't throw out your old coats. Blue Church is collecting gently used coats to help those who can use them for the upcoming winter season. The collection of coats will continue through the Christmas season. You can bring in coats for drop off in the bin in the narthex.

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**THE CHARTS TO SPONSOR THE ALTAR FLOWERS, BULLETINS, SANCTUARY LAMP AND THE WINE & COMMUNION BREAD FOR 2018 ARE ON THE BULLETIN BOARDS IN THE NARTHEX.** Simply fill in the date on the appropriate chart that you would like to sponsor (in memory of/in honor of, etc.) and an envelope will be sent to you prior to that week for your payment. Altar Flowers - \$25.00; Bulletins - \$15.00; Sanctuary Lamp - \$4.00; Monthly Communion Wine & Bread - \$20.00.

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