

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church

Peachtree City, Georgia

December 18, 2022 9:45 a.m.

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Fritz Wiese, Senior Pastor Miriam Beecher, Pastor
Kendra Campbell-Milburn, Vocals Dana Bogdanski, Bass
Mark Cutler, Acoustic Guitar James McDaniel, Drums
James Callison, Electric Guitar Brad Milburn, Vocals
Luanne Harms, Contemporary Worship Director,
Vocals and Keyboard

P= Pastor **C** = All **L** = Leader

PRELUDE: GLORY IN THE HIGHEST

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

EXCHANGING THE PEACE OF THE LORD

OPENING SONG: JOY TO THE WORLD (UNSPEAKABLE JOY)

Verse 1

Joy to the world the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room

And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and heaven and nature sing

Verse 2

Joy to the world the Savior reigns
Let all their songs employ
While fields and floods rocks hills and plains

Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat repeat the sounding joy

Chorus

Joy unspeakable joy
An overflowing well
No tongue can tell

Joy unspeakable joy
It rises in my soul
Never lets me go

Verse 3

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness

And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love
And wonders wonders of His love



Chorus

Joy unspeakable joy
An overflowing well
No tongue can tell

Joy unspeakable joy
It rises in my soul
Never lets me go

CCLI Song # 5607039

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↑ PRAYER OF THE DAY

L Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Luke 1:6-20

L Our First Lesson is from the Gospel according to Luke, the 1st chapter.

Both (Elizabeth and Zechariah) were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. ⁷But they had no children because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

⁸Once when he was serving as priest before God during his section's turn of duty, ⁹he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to offer incense. ¹⁰Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside.

¹¹Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense.

¹²When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified, and fear overwhelmed him. ¹³But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John.

¹⁴You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. . . . ¹⁶He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. . . . to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." ►

2 ¹⁸Zechariah said to the angel, “How can I know that this will happen? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.” ¹⁹The angel replied, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news.

²⁰But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.”

📖 Word of God, Word of Life.

👏 **Thanks be to God.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

📖 Today we relight the first three candles of the Advent Wreath — the candles of HOPE, PEACE, and JOY. Now we light the fourth candle of Advent. This is the candle of LOVE. Jesus demonstrated self-giving love in his ministry as the Good Shepherd. Advent is a time for kindness, thinking of others, and sharing. It is a time to love as God loved us by giving us his most precious gift. As God is love, let us be love also. In the Book of Deuteronomy, we find these words:

“For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.”

📖 Let us pray:

Teach us to love, O Lord. May we always remember to put you first as we follow Christ’s footsteps so that we may know your love and show it in our lives. As we prepare for our celebration of Jesus’ birth, also fill our hearts with love for the world, that all may know your love and the one whom you have sent, your son, our Savior.

👏 **Amen.**

⬆️ **GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25**

📖 The Gospel according to Matthew, the 1st chapter.

👏 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ▶

²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

📖 The Gospel of the Lord.

👏 **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Fritz

SONG OF THE DAY: NOEL

Verse 1

**The First Noel the angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds
In fields as they lay**

**In fields where they
Lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night
That was so deep**

Pre-Chorus

Noel Noel Noel Noel

Verse 2

**They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far
And to the earth it gave great light
And so it continued both day and night**

Pre-Chorus

Noel Noel Noel Noel

Chorus (2X)

**Noel Noel Noel Noel
Born is the King of Israel**

Instrumental

Chorus (2X)

**Noel Noel Noel Noel
Born is the King of Israel**

CCLI Song # 7095547

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OUR PROFESSION OF FAITH: The Apostles' Creed

- Let us confess our baptismal faith together.
 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 OF THE CHURCH

When the petition concludes "God, in your mercy," please respond, "**hear our prayer.**"
 When the prayers conclude, please respond, "**Amen.**"

OFFERING

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 We acknowledge that you may have given Online or through the mail. Thank you.



OFFERING SONG: sKIDdles

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

- The Lord be with you.
 And also with you.
 Lift up your hearts.
 We lift them to the Lord.
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
 It is right to give our thanks and praise.
 It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

- In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name; your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread; forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

SHARING COMMUNION AT CHURCH or at home with your household

Please approach the altar as directed by an usher. You will be offered a wafer, and you may dip it into the chalice containing wine or white grape juice. Or, you may choose a prepackaged kit.

COMMUNION SONG: WHAT CHILD IS THIS

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING and BEDICTION

- God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, † bless you now and forever.
 Amen.

SENDING SONG: GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

Verse 1

**While shepherds kept their watching
 Over silent flocks by night
 Behold throughout the heavens
 There shone a holy light**

Chorus

**(Oh) (So) I say go tell it on the mountain
 Over the hills and everywhere
 Go tell it on the mountain
 That Jesus Christ is born**

Verse 2

**The shepherds feared and trembled
 When lo above the Earth
 Rang out the angel chorus
 That hailed our Savior's birth**



Verse 3

**Down in a lowly manger
Our humble Christ was born
And God sent us salvation
On that blessed Christmas morn**

Chorus

**(Oh) (So) I say go tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born**

Verse 4

**I was a lonely seeker
I sought both night and day
I asked the Lord to help me
And he showed me the way**

Verse 5

**He made me a watchman
Upon a city wall
And if I am a Christian
I am the least of all**

Chorus

**(Oh) (So) I say go tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born**

Tag (4X)

**Go tell it
Go tell it
Go tell it
Go on and tell it**

CCLI Song # 7165586

John W. Work Jr. | Jonathan Smith | Zach Williams

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DISMISSAL

- Go in peace, with God beside you.
Invite everyone to Jesus' pathway of joy and life!
- Thanks be to God.**