

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



The Annunciation, © Jen Norton. Used by permission.

DECEMBER 19, 2021

Peace Lutheran Church



West Seattle, Washington

***Welcome to Peace – We're glad you found us!
Your presence here enriches our community.***

Throughout Advent we are exploring in particular the gifts that night and darkness bring. In readings from Luke, we trace the story of the Messenger Gabriel's visit to Mary and Mary's subsequent visit to her kinswoman Elizabeth. The mystery of life that enfolds in the darkness of each woman's womb will change the trajectory of God's saving story.

HOLY COMMUNION: We will celebrate Holy Communion today. Christ is the host of this meal of grace and is truly present, offering himself with the bread and wine.
All who want to meet Christ are welcome at this Table.

+ GATHERING +

PRELUDE

Pastoral Symphony (MESSIAH)

Georg Handel

WELCOME

LITANY FOR ADVENT

Today's Captivities

- P Christ our Savior, save us from today's captivities.
From the need to have more; and from having our identity
and self-worth defined by what we possess.
- C **Savior Christ, set us free.**
- A From the need to be satisfied without waiting;
and from anxiety when material longings are deferred.
- C **Savior Christ, set us free.**
- P From paralysis and confusion, in the face of so many needs, so much information.
- C **Savior Christ, set us free.**
- A From hyperactivism that denies our limitations,
and from apathy that denies our God-given powers.
- C **Savior Christ, set us free.**
- P From trying to replace you as Savior, by taking the world on our shoulders.
- C **Savior Christ, set us free.**
- A From ignorance or denial of what drives us;
and from captivity to personal drives and needs.
- C **Savior Christ, set us free.**
- P From embarrassment in speaking about your love; from not knowing what to say;
And from the shame of being misunderstood, scorned, or ignored.
- C **Savior Christ, set us free.**
- A From captivity to anger, bitterness, and disappointment;
and from captivities we cannot speak about, or name.
- C **Savior Christ, set us free. Amen.**

1 As the dark a - waits the dawn,
 2 As the blue ex - pec - tant hour

so we a - wait your light. O Star of
 be - fore the sil - v'ring skies, we long to

prom - ise, scat - ter night, lov - ing bright, lov - ing
 see your day a - rise, whole and wise, whole and

bright, till shades of fear are gone.
 wise, O lu - cent Morn - ing Star.

GREETING

P The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, the love of Christ that guards our hearts and minds, and the joy and consolation of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

KYRIE

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, Chri - ste e - le - i - son,
 Ky - ri - e e - le - e - le - i - son.

Ga - thered by your love, we pray for hea - ling and hope. Lord,
 give us peace, make us one, sal - va - tion come.

From your per - fect love, bring your per - fect reign to
 ev' - ry heart, ev' - ry home; let love be known.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and tender mercy free us from all that binds us, that trusting in your word we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

+ WORD +

ADVENT SONG *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, verses 7 & 8*

O come, O King of nations, come, O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you; restore the broken, make us new.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Marx Family

The candles on the Advent wreath are lit progressively as we prepare to welcome Christ.

L The Gospel of Luke tells how Mary meets her cousin Elizabeth: When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, “*Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.*”

L God speaks in many ways: through dreams, visions, new ideas, and the kicking of a child not yet born. We light our fourth candle, asking that we may hear God’s call in our body, mind, and spirit.

(The fourth candle is lit.)

L Living Christ, give us faith to trust you, hope to follow you, love to live for you, and wisdom to know you.

C **We trust you, we love you, we praise you. Amen.**

PSALM: Psalm 95

The assembly joins the cantor on each refrain:

For you, O Lord, my soul in still - ness
waits, tru - ly my hope is in you.

The musical notation consists of two staves. The first staff is in 4/4 time and contains the melody for the first line of text. The second staff is in 2/4 time and contains the melody for the second line of text. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Cantor: Come, let us bow before the God who made us, Deb Hagen-Lukens
Let ev'ry heart be opened to the Lord,
For we are all the people of his hand. *Refrain*

Here we shall meet the Maker of the heavens,
Creator of the mountains and the seas,
Lord of the stars, and present to us now. *Refrain*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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

The musical notation consists of two staves. The first staff is in G major (one sharp) and contains the melody for the first line of text. The second staff is in G major and contains the melody for the second line of text. The lyrics are written below the notes. The word "Repeat alleluia" is written above the second staff.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 1st Chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL PART ONE: Luke 1:26-38

Julie Ward

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.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you;

therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

CHILDREN’S TIME

Julie Ward

GOSPEL PART TWO: Luke 1:39-55

Pastor Erik Kindem

After the annunciation by Gabriel, Mary goes quickly to see Elizabeth.

Their encounter confirms what Gabriel said, inspiring Mary to raise her voice in a song of praise and thanksgiving.

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

⁴⁶And Mary said, ‘My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for God has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.’

⁵⁶And Mary remained with her for about three months and then returned to her home.

L The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Erik Kindem

HYMN OF THE DAY

A Stable Lamp is Lighted

LBW #74



1 A sta - ble lamp is light - ed Whose glow shall wake the sky;
2 This child through Da - vid's cit - y Shall ride in tri - umph by;
3 Yet he shall be for - sak - en And yield - ed up to die;
4 But now, as at the end - ing, The low is lift - ed high;

The stars shall bend their voic - es, And ev - 'ry stone shall cry.
The palm shall strew its branch - es, And ev - 'ry stone shall cry.
The sky shall groan and dark - en, And ev - 'ry stone shall cry.
The stars shall bend their voic - es, And ev - 'ry stone shall cry.

And ev - 'ry stone shall cry, And straw like gold shall shine;
And ev - 'ry stone shall cry, Though heav - y, dull, and dumb,
And ev - 'ry stone shall cry For ston - y hearts of men;
And ev - 'ry stone shall cry In prais - es of the child

A barn shall har - bor heav - en, A stall be - come a shrine.
And lie with - in the road - way To pave his king - dom come.
God's blood up - on the spear - head, God's love re - fused a - gain.
By whose de - scent a - mong us The worlds are rec - on - ciled.

+ PRAYERS +

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Chris Kindem

A In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

Petitions are offered that end with:

A Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

When all petitions have been offered:

A God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

C **Amen.**

+ MEAL +

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

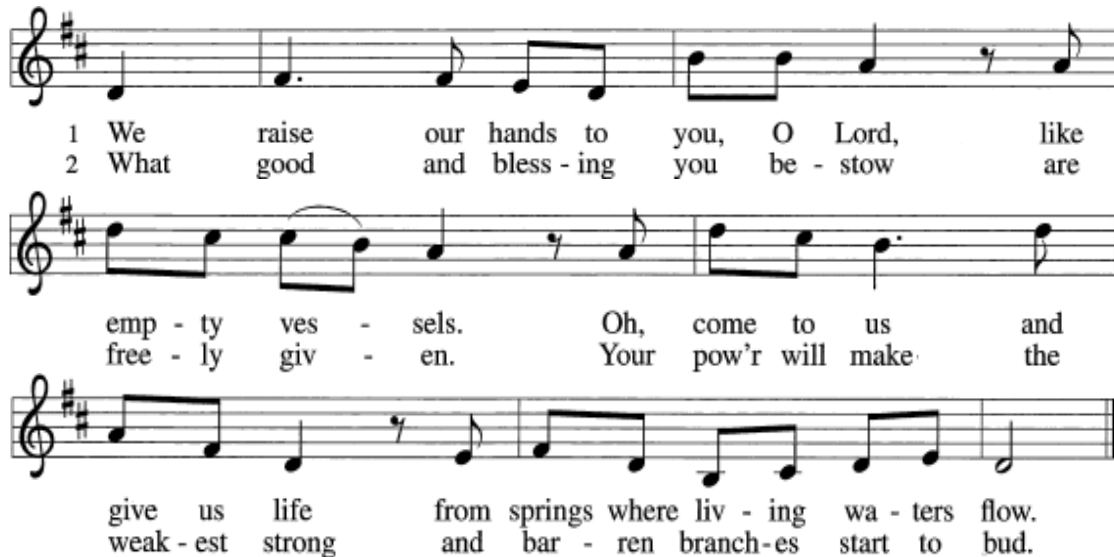
OFFERING

Your monetary gifts support our mission and ELCA ministries around the region and world. You can give a regular or special offering today by connecting to our secure [Tithely Giving Page](#). Whatever size, your gift makes difference—thank you for your support!

OFFERTORY

We Raise Our Hands to You

ELW #690



1 We raise our hands to you, O Lord, like
2 What good and blessing you bestow are

emp - ty ves - sels. Oh, come to us and
free - ly giv - en. Your pow'r will make the

give us life from springs where liv - ing wa - ters flow.
weak - est strong and bar - ren branch - es start to bud.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray. God of our waiting and watching,

C we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of your people and all creation. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should give thanks and praise to you, compassionate and vulnerable God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh,
you have opened our eyes to a new and radiant vision of your glory;
that beholding the God made visible,
we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.

And so, with Mary who gave you birth, and with Joseph who nurtured your life;
With the men who left their nets, and the children who clamored for blessing,
With the women who met you, risen from the dead,
and with all creatures of Earth and all the company of heaven,
We praise your name and join their unending hymn:

[Sung to Hark the Herald]

♪ **Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of heav'n and earth adored.
O how blest is he who comes in the holy name of God!
Joyful, all you nations rise; join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!**

P Blessed is our brother Jesus, bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh;
who, on the night when he was delivered over to death,
took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

C **Take and eat, this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.**

P Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

C **This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people
for forgiveness and healing. Do this for the remembrance of me.**

P Come now, dearest Spirit of God, embrace us with your wings of power.
Brood over these bodily things, and make us one body in Christ.

C **Bless us and this bread and cup, that, held and nourished by you,
we may live as your children, shining with the light of your Son.**

P Through him all glory and honor is yours, Eternal God,
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P In Jesus, we are bold to pray:

C **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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come now with joy to Emmanuel's table. Feast at the banquet of hope and love.

C **Thanks be to God.**

*Both wine and grape juice are available; gluten-free wafers will be served.
Follow the direction of the usher to come forward in pew or family groups.*

COMMUNION HYMNS

My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

ELW #251



1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!
2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer - cy ev - er flows.
3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.
With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem - ing hearts ex - pose.
the prom - ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless - ing shall pro - claim—
The ruth - less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;
Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,



great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.
the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

We Come to the Hungry Feast

ELW # 479



1 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a word of peace.
2 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a world re - leased
3 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry that the hun - ger cease,



To hun - gry hearts un - sat - is - fied the love of God is
from hun - gry folk of ev - 'ry kind, the poor in bod - y,
and know - ing, though we eat our fill, the hun - ger will stay



not de - nied. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.
poor in mind. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.
with us; still we come, we come to the hun - gry feast.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A Let us pray. Most High God, you have come among us at this table.
By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word,
sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus,
our host and our guest.

C Amen.

BLESSING

P The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing,
so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit,
through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

C Amen.

+ SENDING +

SENDING HYMN

As the Dark Awaits the Dawn

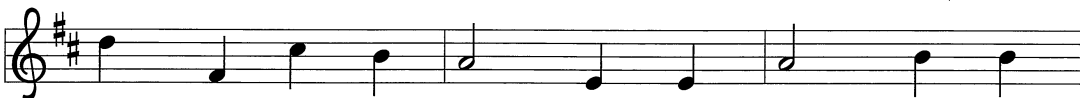
ELW #261 vs 3-4



1 As the dark a - waits the dawn,
2 As the blue ex - pec - tant hour
3 As the moon re - flects the sun
4 Shine your fu - ture on this place,



so we a - wait your light. O Star of
be - fore the sil - v'ring skies, we long to
un - til the night's de - crease, may we your
en - light - en ev - 'ry guest, that through us



prom - ise, scat - ter night, lov - ing bright, lov - ing
see your day a - rise, whole and wise, whole and
heal - ing light re - lease, liv - ing peace, liv - ing
stream your ho - li - ness, bright and blest, bright and



bright, till shades of fear are gone.
wise, O lu - cent Morn - ing Star.
peace, un - to your ho - ly dawn.
blest; come dawn, O Sun of grace.

A Go in peace. Christ is near.

C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Aria

J.S. Bach

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Kathleen Keyes Office Admin. Office@peacelutheranseattle.org
Church Office hours: Tuesday through Thursday 11:00am-3:00pm
Nicole Klinemeier, Youth Director 206-427-6496
Jon Lackey, Minister of Music Music@peacelutheranseattle.org
Find us on [facebook](#) at **People of Peace Lutheran**

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Pastor	Rev. Erik Kindem
Minister of Music	Jon Lackey
Advent Dialogue	The Marx Family
Liturgical Assistant	Chris Kindem
Lector	Julie Ward
Children's Sermon	Julie Ward
Cantor	Deb Hagen-Lukens
Altar Care	Karl Coy
Communion Assistant	Liz Hernandez
Greeters	Helen Hundley (host), Liz Hernandez, Erika Stephens
Ushers	Randy Hernandez
Nursery Attendant	Heidi Coy
Production Techs	Alex Wren, Dustin Smith

ANNOUNCEMENTS 12/19/21

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE SET FOR 5:00pm

We will celebrate Christmas Eve with **ONE SERVICE AT 5pm** on December 24th. Harpist Leslie McMichael will join us for this service of lessons and carols. While we cannot host the children's Christmas pageant during COVID times, this service will appeal to all ages and will be less than an hour in length. It will end with the candle-lit singing of Silent Night. Look for the luminaries to guide you as you make your way to Peace on this holy night! You can make a reservation for the Christmas Eve service on EventBrite by following this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/169391016089>

PRE-RECORDED SERVICE ONLY FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

There will be **NO IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICE** on Sunday, December 26. Instead, the congregations of the Northwest Washington Synod will offer a special pre-recorded service which we will broadcast on our [YouTube](#) channel beginning at 10:30am that Sunday. A link for the service will be sent out later this month.

2021 YEAR END GIFTS

Year-end gifts in support of Peace's mission make a significant difference in helping finish the fiscal year with strength. If you are planning to make a year-end gift but have not yet done so, please make certain your check is dated on or before December 31, 2021. Thank you!

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING JANUARY 30, 2022

Sunday, January 30, is our Annual Congregational Meeting. Please add it to your calendar! Following are some key dates to keep in mind as the day approaches.

- **DECEMBER 5** – 1st congregational conversation on the proposed 2022 budget.
- **JANUARY 4** – All annual reports from Peace ministries, committees, and task forces are due in the church office (electronic form, please!)
- **JANUARY 18** – Church Council meeting to finalize Annual Meeting agenda and budget.
- **JANUARY 23** – Bulletin of Reports for Annual Meeting are available.
- **JANUARY 30** – Annual Meeting following worship.

ELECTIONS FOR CHURCH COUNCIL COMING UP

Would you like to serve as a member of our congregation's Church Council? There are leadership positions on the Council opening up in January. The council meets once a month to support our ongoing mission, including the discussion of budgets, policies, and the operations of the church. Church council members are the governing body of the church in between congregational meetings. They work as liaisons between the council and all the church committees and ministry teams. The council is comprised of a group of individuals who work hard to maintain a positive, Christian experience for everyone who attends Peace Lutheran Church. **We need you!** If you are interested in exploring the possibility of becoming a church council member please contact Marcia Olson, Heidi Eilers, or Kathleen Keyes. Nominees must have been a member of Peace for 1 year. Elections take place at the Annual Meeting on January 30th.

PRAYER LIST

Please continue to remember the sick and home-bound of our congregation and others who have sought our prayers: **Sick/Recovering:** Jim Baker; Catherine Bell; Connie Benjamin; John Berrell; Joyce Berrell; Cindy Collie; Gavriella DeBoer; Deyhdra Dennis-Weiss; Keili Geller; Nathaniel Gibson; Doug Hauger; Jerry Heiland; Tim Herriford; Mackenzie Hull; Vickie Jarvimaki; Jeffry; Ken Keyes; Ann Kimmel; Kristofer Kindem; Mike Larson; Dee Levy; Maya Marshall; Bill Marts; Lynn McCracken; Kris McCracken; Chloe McDonough; Eric, Erin, Finley McDonough; Bill Morrell; Bill Nandor; JoAnn Nandor; John & Renee Parker; Mitch Shepard; Bob & Rosemary Smalading; Aaden Smith; Leon Smith; JoAnne Spangler; Sean Stephens; Kim Sundbloom; Sarah Taylor; Karin VanSant; Louisa Wagner; Nanette Wichman

Homebound: Al Bartol; Lee Lamson; Dorothy Linnell; Joyce Wolff

RECONCILING IN CHRIST AFFIRMATION OF WELCOME

Christ calls us to reconciliation and wholeness, in a world that can be filled with alienation and brokenness. In faithfulness to the Gospel and to our Lutheran heritage, we answer Christ's call to be agents of healing and safety, particularly for people who have been marginalized by our society. As a Christian community, we invite all people to join us as we work to better understand the meaning of grace for our lives. We welcome people of all sexual orientations and gender identities into the life and mission of our congregation.

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