



Calvary Episcopal Church

4th Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024

8:00 A.M. Eucharist, Rite One

Love

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

1 John 4:9,11

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Introduction: Week Four

On our journey to Christmas, we have lit the candles of Hope, Peace, and Joy on our Advent Wreath. These candles remind us of the hope that Christ will come again, bringing everlasting peace, and joy. This is the fourth Sunday of Advent, so we light the last candle, the candle of Love. Today's candle is lit to draw our hearts to the magnitude of God's love for us that was made manifest in Jesus.

Readers Week Four

The angel Gabriel reassured Mary that "nothing will be impossible with God." The power of love is the power to overcome what we think is impossible in our lives. As we light the candle of Love, we remember that God so loves this world that he sent his only son, Jesus, to save us. We light this candle in honor of those who have shown us how to love even when doing so is not convenient or sensible. We remember those who show us that compassion – unconditional love – is how we are called to live our lives.

Christ connects all the Advent candles. Through him we can find hope, peace, joy, and love. Christ steps down into darkness to bring light to the world. Through Jesus we hold God's love in our hearts. Love was the hope of the saints and the call of the prophets. It was the fire in the belly of the Baptist, the courage of Mother Mary, and the obedience of Joseph. Lamp in the window, beacon on the hill, star in the night sky. These symbols of light point to the One who loves us more than we can imagine.

As we remain seated, let us pray together: ***Father of lights, we light these candles of hope, of peace, of joy, and today of love, to prepare our hearts and lives so that we may again receive the gift of Christ and, through him, salvation. Break into our world and our hearts again. Magnify your love in us until it overflows to our family, friends, and neighbors. Renew our faith to experience again the wonder of your love. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you so that we may shine the light of your compassionate love in this broken world. Come, God of Love, come. Amen.***

THE WORD OF GOD

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 267 - Praise we the Lord this day

1. *Praise we the Lord this day,
this day so long foretold,
whose promise shone with cheering ray
on waiting saints of old.*
2. *The prophet gave the sign
for faithful folk to read:
a virgin born of David's line
shall bear the promised seed.*
3. *Ask not how this should be,
but worship and adore,
like her whom heaven's Majesty
came down to shadow o'er.*
4. *She meekly bowed her head
to hear the gracious word,
Mary, the pure and lowly maid,
the favored of the Lord.*
5. *Most blest shall be her name
in all the Church on earth,
through whom that wondrous mercy came,
the incarnate Savior's birth.*

WELCOME AND ACCLAMATION

BCP 323

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

Kyrie eleison Christe eleison Kyrie eleison
Kyrie eleison Christe eleison Kyrie eleison
Kyrie eleison Christe eleison Kyrie eleison

Hymnal S-89

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Let us pray together.

We beseech thee, Almighty God, to purify our consciences by thy daily visitation, that when thy Son our Lord cometh he may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE LESSONS

A READING FROM THE PROPHET MICAH

Micah 5:2-5a

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
 who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
 one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
 from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time
 when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
 to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,
 in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
 to the ends of the earth;
and he shall be the one of peace.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE 15, THE SONG OF MARY (READ IN UNISON)

Luke 1:46-55

***My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
 my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;
 for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.***

***From this day all generations will call me blessed:
 the Almighty has done great things for me,
 and holy is his Name.***

He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.

***He has shown the strength of his arm,
 he has scattered the proud in their conceit.***

***He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
 and has lifted up the lowly.***

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

***He has come to the help of his servant Israel,
 for he has remembered his promise of mercy,***

The promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children for ever.

***Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.***

When Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;
in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN 265 - The Angel Gabriel came

1. *The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
‘All hail,’ said he, ‘thou lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favored lady,’ Gloria!*
2. *‘For know a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honor thee,
thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
most highly favored lady,’ Gloria!*
3. *Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
‘To me be as it pleaseth God,’ she said,
‘my soul shall laud and magnify his holy Name.’
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!*
4. *Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say—
‘Most highly favored lady,’ Gloria!*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Luke

Glory be to thee, O Lord.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted 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. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to thee, O Christ.

SERMON - Fr. Ralph

THE NICENE CREED (*standing*)

BCP 326

***We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.***

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

As we keep awake for the coming of the Lord, let us offer prayers to God who prepares a light for our path.

For the coming of Jesus Christ in power and glory.

Come, O Lord, and save us.

For the coming of Wisdom to teach and guide us.

Come, O Lord, and save us.

For the coming of Emmanuel, the hope of all people.

Come, O Lord, and save us.

For the peace of the world, and for our unity in Christ.

Hear us, Lord.

For the church throughout the world and the faithful in every place.

Hear us, Lord.

For Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Andy, Jeff, Kai, and Héctor, our Bishops; Ralph, our Priest; Nancy, our Deacon, and for all the holy people of God.

Hear us, Lord.

For the leaders of the nations and all in authority.

Hear us, Lord.

For justice, peace, and freedom among peoples of the earth.

Hear us, Lord.

For travelers, for the sick and the suffering, for the hungry and the oppressed, for those in prison, and for those we name now, either silently or aloud.

Hear us, Lord.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation, especially _____.

(You may offer prayers either silently or aloud)

In your mercy.

Hear us, Lord.

For those who rest in Christ, especially _____. In your mercy.

Hear us, Lord.

For our deliverance from all afflictions, strife, and need.

Come, O Lord, and save us.

Joining our voices with the blessed Virgin Mary and with all the saints and angels of God, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.

To you, O Lord our God.

Celebrant adds a concluding Collect

CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy Name. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And with thy spirit.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY HYMN 54 - Savior of the nations come

- 1. Savior of the nations, come!
Virgin's Son, make here your home.
Marvel now, both heaven and earth,
that the Lord chose such a birth.*
- 2. Wondrous birth! Oh, wondrous child
of the Virgin undefiled!
Mighty God and Mary's son,
eager now his race to run!*
- 3. Thus on earth the Word appears,
gracing his created spheres;
hence to death and hell descends,
then the heavenly throne ascends.*
- 4. Come, O Father's saving Son,
who o'er sin the victory won.
Boundless shall your kingdom be;
grant that we its glories see.*

THE DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

It is meet and right so to do.

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. [*Proper Preface is added*]

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:

HYMN # S-114

Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.

Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and

Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to pray,

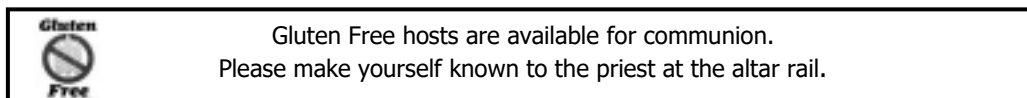
***Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is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

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

These are the Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.



If you have a special prayer need, step into the side chapel after you receive communion, and a member of the Prayer Team will pray with you.

COMMUNION HYMN 318 - Here, O my Lord

- 1. Here, O my Lord, I see thee face to face;
here would I touch and handle things unseen;
here grasp with firmer hand eternal grace,
and all my weariness upon thee lean.**
- 2. Here would I feed upon the Bread of God;
here drink with thee the royal Wine of heaven;
here would I lay aside each earthly load,
here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiven.**
- 3. I have no help but thine; nor do I need
another arm save thine to lean upon;
it is enough, my Lord, enough indeed;
my strength is in thy might, thy might alone.**
- 4. Mine is the sin, but thine the righteousness;
mine is the guilt, but thine the cleansing
Blood.
Here is my robe, my refuge, and my peace;
thy Blood, thy righteousness, O Lord, my God.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

THE BLESSING

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen.** (these words may differ from time to time)

RECESSIONAL HYMN 66 - Come Thou long expected Jesus

- 1. Come Thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.**
- 2. Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.**
- 3. Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.**
- 4. By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.**

THE DISMISSAL

Alleluia, Alleluia. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. (these words may differ from time to time)
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.



The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God by
Wendy and George Doherty in honor of Jordan Maldonado's Baptism

Please Sign Up Online To Donate Altar Flowers
Enhance Our Worship + Thank God + Remember A Loved One
Flower offerings for 2025 will be done **online** at calvaryrichmond.org under
giving/altar flowers or use the QR code found inside of the announcement insert
The cost is \$50, to be paid in advance.

Calvary Worship Service Times
8:00 AM Sunday – Traditional Service
10:30 AM Sunday – Contemporary Service
5:00 PM Sunday – Sunday Night Alive Informal Service

Calvary Staff

The Rev. Ralph B. Morgan, Rector
The Rev. Nancy Wilkes, Deacon

John Brun, Parish Administrator
Anne Scarborough, Newcomer Coordinator
William Soller, Communications/Children's Minister
Suzette Hillis, Administrative Assistant

Kathy Haley, Finance Administrator
Sterling Overshown, Organist/Choir Director
Will Mason, POGS Worship Coordinator
Ross Elkins, SNL Worship Leader
Jose Portillo, Campus Operations

IF YOU HAVE AN EMERGENCY AND NEED TO SPEAK TO SOMEONE, PLEASE CONTACT:

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CALVARY STEWARDSHIP CORNER:

2024 Pledged: \$555,925
2024 Given: \$516,173