



**The 4th Sunday of Advent**  
**December 20, 2020**  
**9:00am**

**Welcome**

**Prelude**

*Prelude and Meditation on Veni Emmanuel*

Matthew Corl

**Candle Lighting**

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

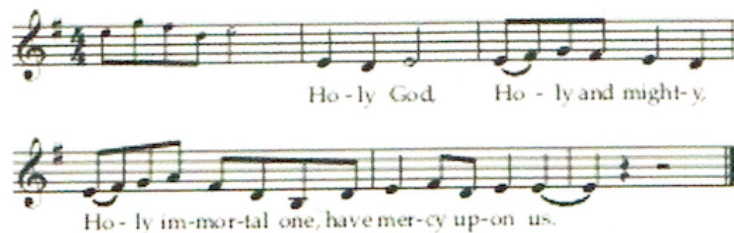
Hymn 56  
(vs. 5)

O come, thou key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

**Opening Acclamation**

*Priest* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
*People* **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

**Trisagion**



**Collect of the Day**

*Clergy* The Lord be with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**  
*Clergy* Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

*Reader*      The Word of the Lord.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

### **Canticle 15: The Song of Mary**

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.

### **Doxology**

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

### **Hymn**

*Come, thou long expected Jesus*

Hymn 66

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.

Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art:  
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king;  
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

## Holy Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

*Priest* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.  
*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He 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. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The 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. And 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. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then 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.

*Priest* The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## Sermon

The Rev. Toppie Bates

## The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth;  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 People

In our Parishes, we pray for the people of St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, Slaterville Springs and their priest, the Rev. Cole Gruberth, and the people of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, South New Berlin and their priest, the Rev. Steve White. In our Companion Diocese, we pray for the people of Misión San Esteban and their priest, The Rev. Alfredo López. In the Episcopal Church, we pray for the Diocese of Delaware, The Rt. Rev. Kevin S. Brown. And in the Anglican Communion, we pray for the mission agencies and their ministry throughout the Anglican Communion, including the Mothers' Union around the world. May the church's life be marked by prayer and service to those in need.

**Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come among us.**

We pray for your creation, especially where it is wounded. Renew the whole earth with your love.

**Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come among us.**

We pray for countries recovering from famine or storms, and for those where human rights have been violated. Give wisdom to presidents, prime ministers, legislatures, and judges in all nations, especially nations at war.

**Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come among us.**

We pray for women preparing to give birth, for adoptive and foster families, for children with special needs, and for children who are orphaned and waiting for families.

**Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come among us.**

We pray for those without homes or jobs, those in treatment for cancer or other illness, those who long for forgiveness, those who find the holidays difficult, and for the sick and the suffering, especially those we name silently or aloud \_\_\_\_\_.

**Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come among us.**

We pray for those who have died and for the friends and family who grieve their loss, especially those we name silently or aloud \_\_\_\_\_. Be their comfort and guide through these days of grief and healing.

**Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come among us.**

You come to your people and set us free. As we are strengthened and sent out from this assembly, help us prepare your way in our daily lives.

**Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come among us.**

### **Confession and Absolution**

Now in humility and trust, we pray for the forgiveness of our sins:

**God of grace, for our failure to listen to others, forgive us.**

**For our blindness to the hurt and suffering of others, forgive us.**

**For offering judgment rather than compassion, to those in need, forgive us.**

**For our fear of those who are different from ourselves, forgive us.**

**For the harm we have done, forgive us.**

**For the good we have failed to do, forgive us.**

**Guide us in your truth, and teach us the way to go, that we may love and serve you well, in the Name of the One who saves us, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*Priest*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins, through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

**Music for Reflection**

*The Angel Gabriel*

Gabriel's Message  
(from Hymnal 265)

### **The 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

## Announcements

### Anniversary & Birthday Blessings

May the strength of God pilot you, May the power of God preserve you, May the wisdom of God instruct you, May the hand of God protect you, May the way of God direct you, May the shield of God guard you against the snares of evil and the temptations of the world. May the Spirit of God bless you in the coming year.

*Adapted from Patrick, c.389 - c.46*

### Blessing

Life is short and we have too little time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us. So, be swift to love and make haste to be kind. And may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you now and always.

### Hymn

*Tell out, my soul*

Hymn 437/438

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;  
tender to me the promise of his word;  
in God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his Name!  
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;  
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;  
His holy Name - the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!  
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,  
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!  
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
to children's children and for evermore!

### Dismissal

*Clergy* Go in the peace of Christ. Serve those living in poverty.  
Proclaim the Good News Alleluia! Alleluia!

*People* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia**

### Postlude

*Finale on Veni Emmanuel*

Matthew Corl