

# Fourth Sunday of Advent



December 20, 2020  
10:30 AM

Join us for our livestream at <https://www.facebook.com/stjohnssummit/>  
or <https://www.youtube.com/user/StJohnsSummitNJ>  
Zoom Coffee Hour: URL: <https://zoom.us/j/753360733>



**Everyone is welcome.** As people of God, St. John's welcomes all regardless of age, economic status, ethnic background, gender, physical or mental ability, race or sexual orientation. We affirm that in Christ "there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female." (Galatians 3:28)  
This is Christ's church, and Christ has bid you come.

**December 20, 2020**

**The church office will be closed December 24–January 5.**

**Advent Intergenerational Zoom Events:** Join us for the last Sunday of Advent on Zoom for a time of learning, singing, and sharing for all ages. Week 4, **TODAY at 4:00 PM.** Bring a favorite crèche or Holy Family to share. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82809432951>.

**Christmas Eve In-Person Worship:** Join us for our in-person worship service **Christmas Eve at 8:00 PM.** We are encouraging people to stand for the service, but if you need to be seated, please bring your own chair. Masks must be worn and social distance must be observed. Limited bathroom usage. **Please RSVP [here](#)** so that we can plan for attendance.

**Coffee Sale:** If you need fair trade coffee, teas, and chocolate, contact Jane Bowman.

**Pledge Update:** Thus far we have received 73 pledges for a total of \$343,080 towards our goal of \$450,000. If you haven't yet submitted your pledge, please do so today.

**Holiday Recipe Book:** Even though we can't share in festive snacks out in the narthex this year, we can still share St. John's holiday fare. Click [here](#) to download our recipe book.

**Retirement Purse:** Pastor Moore is retiring on January 31. To contribute to the Cash Purse we are collecting as part of our retirement gifts, please access the Plumfund site [here](#).

**Neighbors Helping Neighbors:** Please give generously to the emergency fund sponsored by the Summit Interfaith Council to help Summit immigrant neighbors adversely affected by COVID-19. You may make your tax-deductible donation to the Relief Fund [here](#), by check or PayPal. Checks should be made out to and mailed to Beacon UU Congregation in Summit, 4 Waldron Ave., Summit, NJ 07901.

### **Advent & Christmas Worship Schedule**

**Blue Christmas: December 23 at 7:00 PM** Grieving, hurting, feeling blue? Join us for a special service of hope.

**Christmas Eve Virtual Services: 5:00 PM and 10:00 PM** on YouTube and Facebook

**Christmas Eve In-Person Outdoor Service at 8:00 PM.** Join us around the manger (in the Memorial Garden) as we hear the Christmas story and share communion.

**Christmas Day Virtual Service: 10:30 AM** on YouTube and Facebook



### **Prayer Before Worship**

Mighty God, your faithfulness is magnified in the coming of your Son, in the long-awaited birth of the promised Messiah. May we, like Mary, proclaim your greatness as we rejoice in our Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*From Feasting on the Word Worship Companion,  
Year B, Vol. 1*

**PRELUDE** Setting of *Gabriel's Message*

By Paul Manz (1919–2009)

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Gathering**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, who was and is and is to come. **Amen.**

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill my promise to my people. Justice and righteousness will fill the land and all will live in peace and safety.

Together let us honestly and humbly confess our sin before God.

**Loving and forgiving God, we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.**

May Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins, and bring you to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN ELW 265 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,  
2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,  
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;  
4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:  
all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;  
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.  
in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,  
thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."  
and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."  
most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!  
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,  
"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924  
Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Basque carol

## APOSTOLIC 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.**

## ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTING

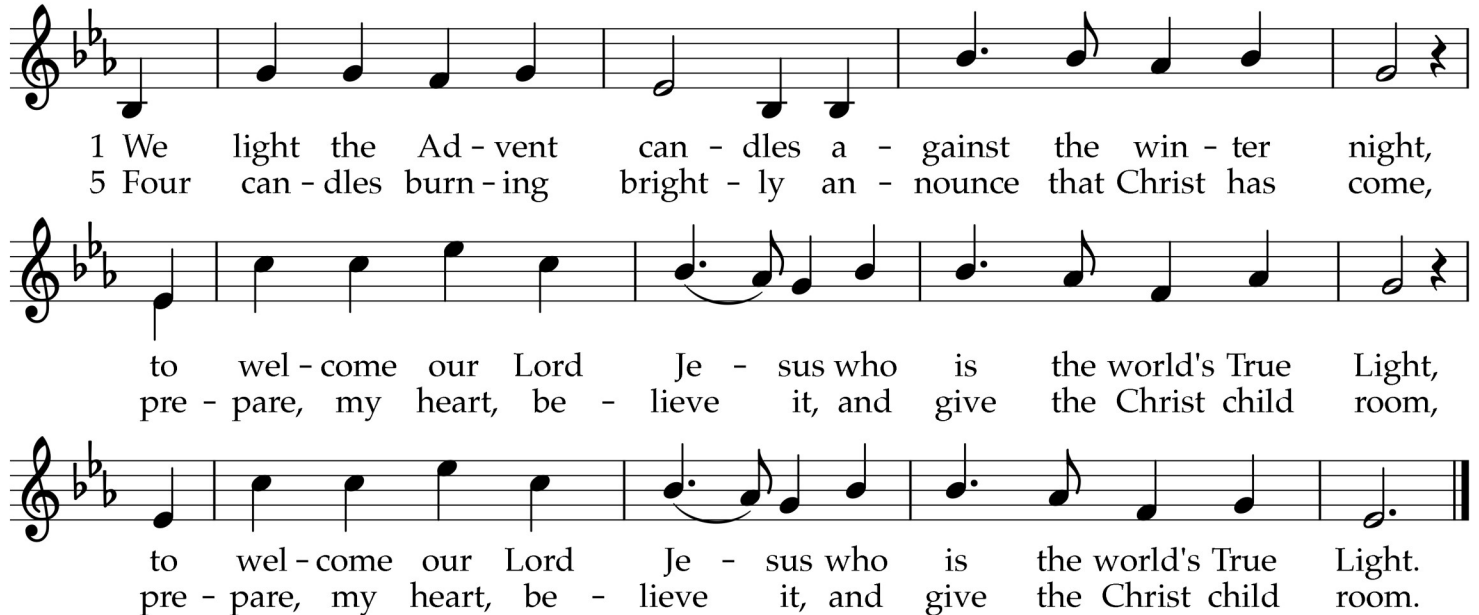
We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

As the Lord has promised, “The Lord will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child. She shall bear a son, and name him Emmanuel: God is with us.”

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

## HYMN We Light the Advent Candles

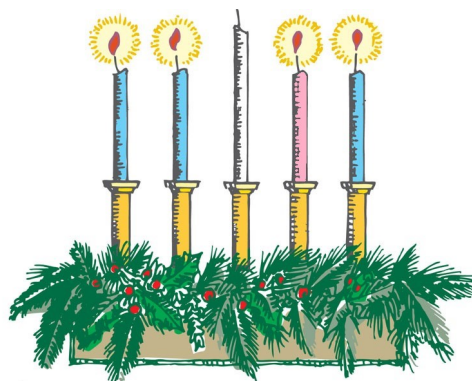
### *Verses 1 & 5*



1 We light the Ad-vent can - dles a - gainst the win - ter night,  
5 Four can - dles burn - ing bright - ly an - nounce that Christ has come,  
to wel - come our Lord Je - sus who is the world's True Light,  
pre - pare, my heart, be - lieve it, and give the Christ child room,  
to wel - come our Lord Je - sus who is the world's True Light.  
pre - pare, my heart, be - lieve it, and give the Christ child room.

Text: Gracia Grindal (1943- )  
Tune: German folk tune

76 76 76  
WIR HATTEN GEBAUET  
<http://www.hymnary.org/hymn/WAR2003/175>



*Fourth Sunday*  
OF ADVENT

**FIRST READING** Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19

<sup>1</sup>Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim. <sup>2</sup>In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us. <sup>3</sup>Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. <sup>4</sup>O Lord God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray? <sup>5</sup>You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink. <sup>6</sup>You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn. <sup>7</sup>Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. <sup>17</sup>Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself. <sup>18</sup>And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name. <sup>19</sup>Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

*The reader concludes:* The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* Thanks be to God.

**SECOND READING** Romans 16:25–27

<sup>25</sup>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 <sup>26</sup>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—<sup>27</sup>to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

*The reader concludes:* The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** ELW 175

The musical score consists of two systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. Both systems are in a key with one flat (B-flat major or D minor) and a 4/4 time signature. The vocal line uses a treble clef, and the piano accompaniment uses a bass clef. The lyrics are: "Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia." The music features a simple, rhythmic melody with some chords and rests. The piano accompaniment provides a steady harmonic support with chords and moving lines.

**GOSPEL** Luke 1:26–38

The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>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. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>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. <sup>36</sup>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. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>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.

*The Gospel is proclaimed, concluding:* The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**



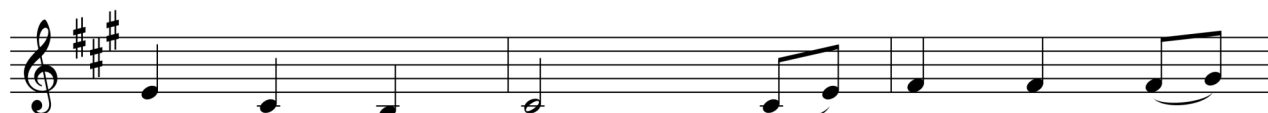
HYMN OF THE DAY ACS 906 No Wind at the Window



1. No wind at the win - dow, No knock on the  
 2. "O Mar - y, O Mar - y, Don't hide from my  
 3. "This child must be born that The king - dom might  
 4. No pay - ment was prom - ised, No prom - is - es



door; No light from the lamp - stand, No  
 face. Be glad that you're fa - vored And  
 come: Sal - va - tion for man - y, De -  
 made; No wed - ding was dat - ed, No



foot on the floor; No dream born of  
 filled with God's grace. The time for re -  
 struc - tion for some; Both end and be -  
 blue - print dis - played. Yet Mar - y, con -



tired - ness, No ghost raised by fear: Just an  
 deem - ing The world has be - gun; And  
 gin - ning, Both mes - sage and sign; Both  
 sent - ing To what none could guess, Re -



an - gel and a wom - an And a voice in her ear.  
 you are re - quest - ed To moth - er God's son.  
 vic - tor and vic - tim, Both yours and di - vine."  
 plied with con - vic - tion, "Tell God I say yes."



## **NICENE CREED**

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

**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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

PEACE  
BE TO  
YOU.

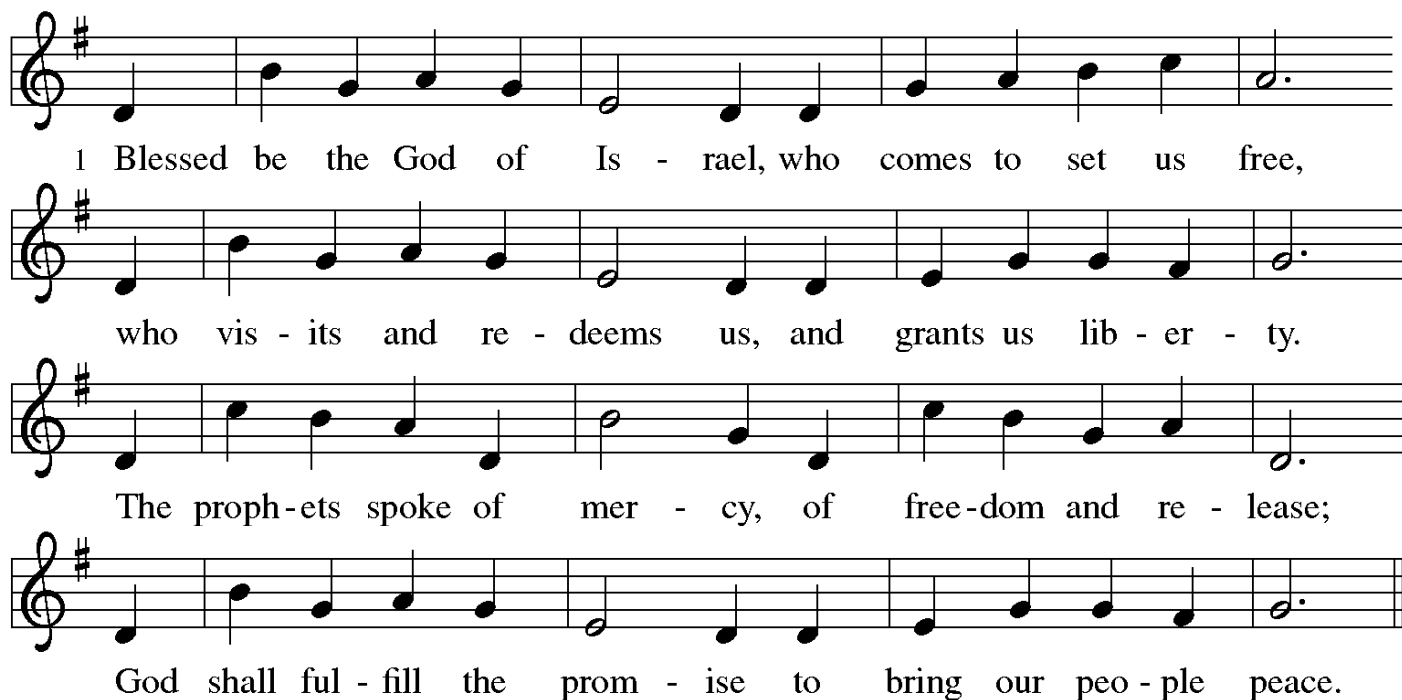
## GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

If you would like to make a one-time or recurring electronic contribution, or want information about mailing checks, you may visit [www.stjohnssummit.org/giving](http://www.stjohnssummit.org/giving). You may also contact the church office for more options.

**OFFERING MUSIC** “He Shall Feed His Flock” and “Come Unto Him” from *Messiah*  
By G. F. Handel (1685–1759)  
Nicholas Meyer–tenor & Kirsten Meyer–soprano

## OFFERTORY ELW 552 Blessed Be the God of Israel

### Verse 1



1 Blessed be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us free,  
who vis - its and re - deems us, and grants us lib - er - ty.  
The proph-ets spoke of mer - cy, of free-dom and re - lease;  
God shall ful - fill the prom - ise to bring our peo - ple peace.

Text: Michael Perry, 1942–1996, based on Luke 1:68–79  
Music: MERLE'S TUNE, Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933  
Text © 1973 Jubilate Hymns, admin. Hope Publishing Company.  
Music © 1983 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

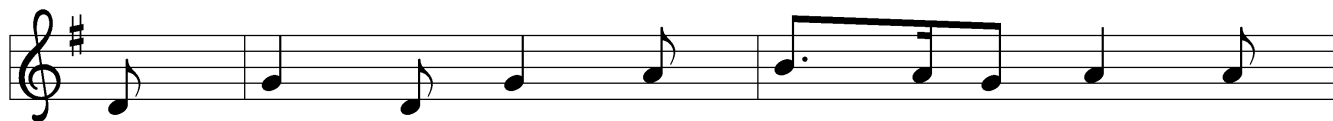
## OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God, you have created all that is, and you provide for us in every season. Bless all that we offer, that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing. In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray. **Amen.**

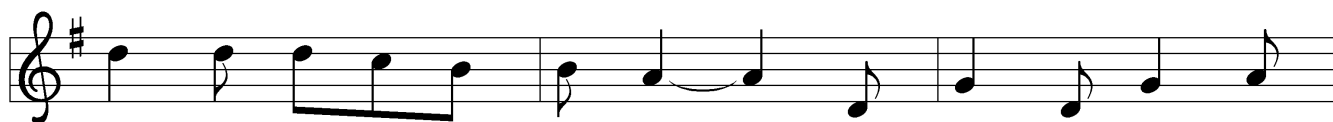
## BLESSING

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, † now and forever. **Amen.**

# SENDING HYMN ELW 242 Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for  
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when  
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for  
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is  
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so  
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.  
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;  
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.  
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -  
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -  
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in  
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and  
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to  
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and  
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.  
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.  
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.  
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen

Text and music © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Fugue on the Magnificat, Tone 1.2

By Johann Pachelbel (1653–1706)

ZOOM COFFEE HOUR: URL: <https://zoom.us/j/753360733>

Zoom Children's Time is on hiatus through January 2.

Evening Prayer: Wednesdays at 7:00 PM on both our [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) pages.

Hymns of Faith is on hiatus until January 13.

Worship Live Stream at 10:30 AM on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/stjohnssummit](http://www.facebook.com/stjohnssummit) or our YouTube Channel at [www.youtube.com/user/StJohnsSummitNJ](http://www.youtube.com/user/StJohnsSummitNJ); Worship bulletins are located: <https://www.stjohnssummit.org/bulletins>.

Giving Is Important. We count on your generous offerings to continue to do our robust ministry. Please give generously. You may [give online](#) or mail checks to the church.

## Ministers: The People of St. John's

### Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Gladys G. Moore, Pastor

[pastorggmoore@stjohnssummit.org](mailto:pastorggmoore@stjohnssummit.org)

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet, Pastor

[pastorbscalet@stjohnssummit.org](mailto:pastorbscalet@stjohnssummit.org)

Donna Garzinsky, Director of Music

[dgarzinsky@stjohnssummit.org](mailto:dgarzinsky@stjohnssummit.org)

Carolyn Rothman, Church Administrator

[crothman@stjohnssummit.org](mailto:crothman@stjohnssummit.org)

Deacon Linda Walker, Minister of Children's Faith Formation

[wk154linda@gmail.com](mailto:wk154linda@gmail.com)

The Rev. Dr. Harry Kocotos, Visitation Pastor

Harold Wyss, Weekday Sexton

Anne Ryan Dello Russo, Nursery

From *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* copyright ©2006. All rights reserved.  
Reprinted by permission of Augsburg Fortress under license #9925-S,  
OneLicense.net license #A-722032, and Church Copyright License  
#11453771 provide permission to podcast the music in this service.

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
587 Springfield Avenue, Summit, NJ 07901  
[www.stjohnssummit.org](http://www.stjohnssummit.org)  
908-273-3846 | Fax: 908-273-9604



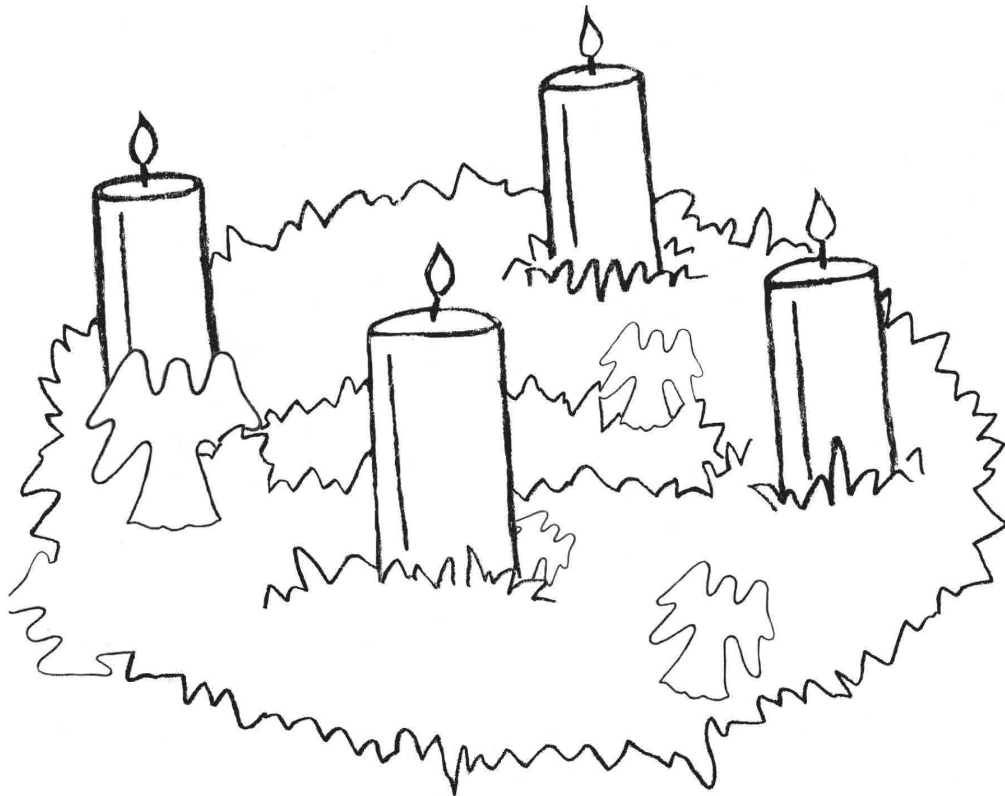
# PRE-READER

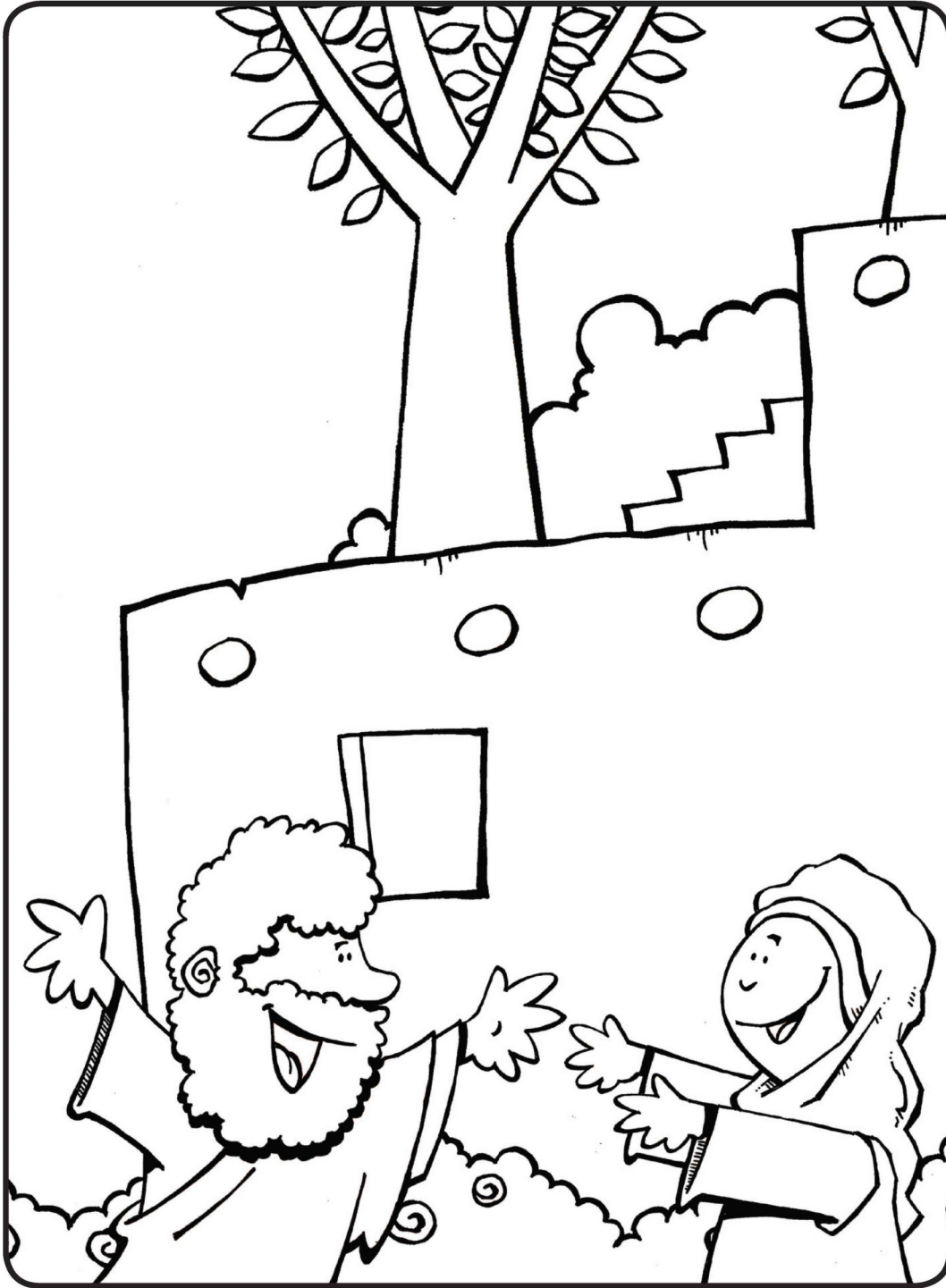
Advent 4

- Today is the **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday** in **Advent**.
- During Advent we hear **good news**. Jesus is coming!
- **Angels** brought this news to **Mary** and **Joseph**.

---

**Angels are hiding in the Advent wreath.  
How many can you find? Color them!**



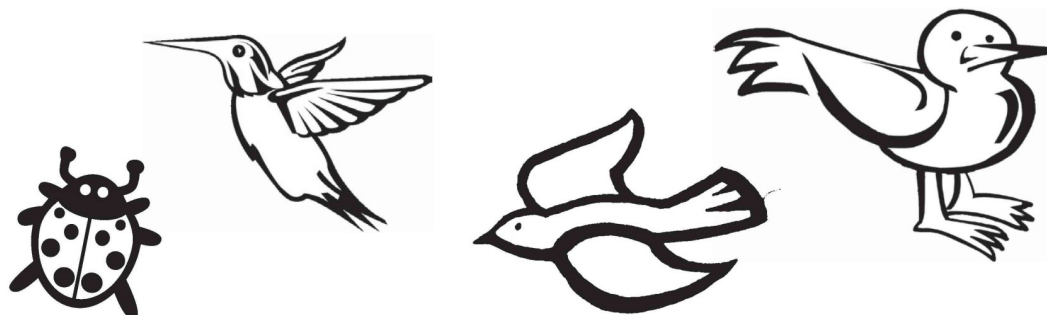


**“I will be with you and we will name the boy Jesus.”**



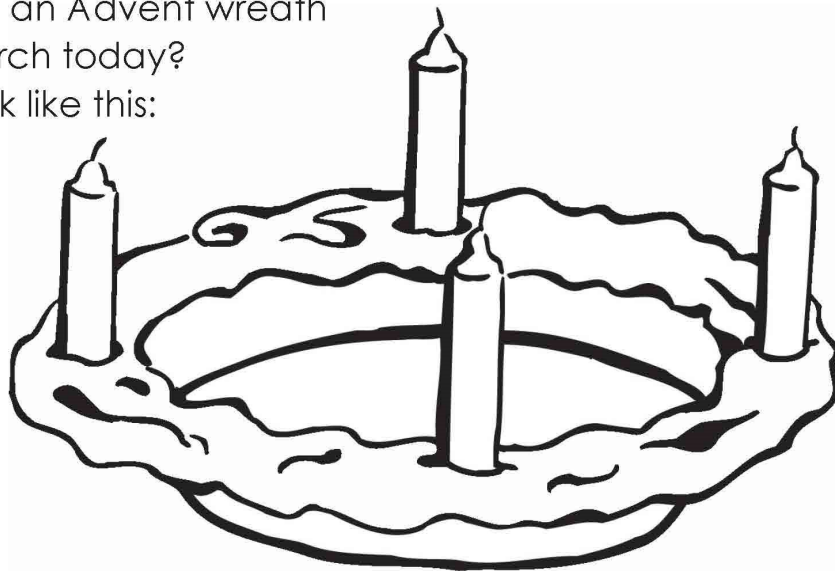
Angels visited Mary and Joseph with some **surprising news**. They found out that they would be Jesus' **parents**!

There is a surprise in each group of pictures. **Pick out the surprising thing in each group.**





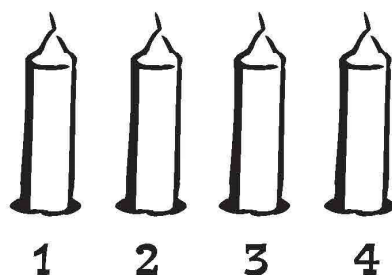
Do you see an Advent wreath  
in your church today?  
It might look like this:



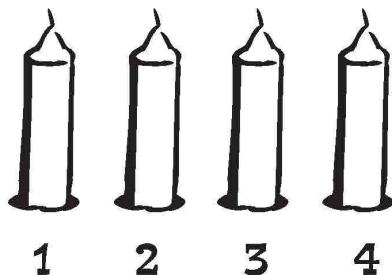
**Color this Advent wreath.**



There are **4 weeks** in Advent. **Circle the number of  
candles you see on the wreath.**



We light **one candle each week** while we wait for Jesus to  
come. **Draw a flame on each candle.**







# READER

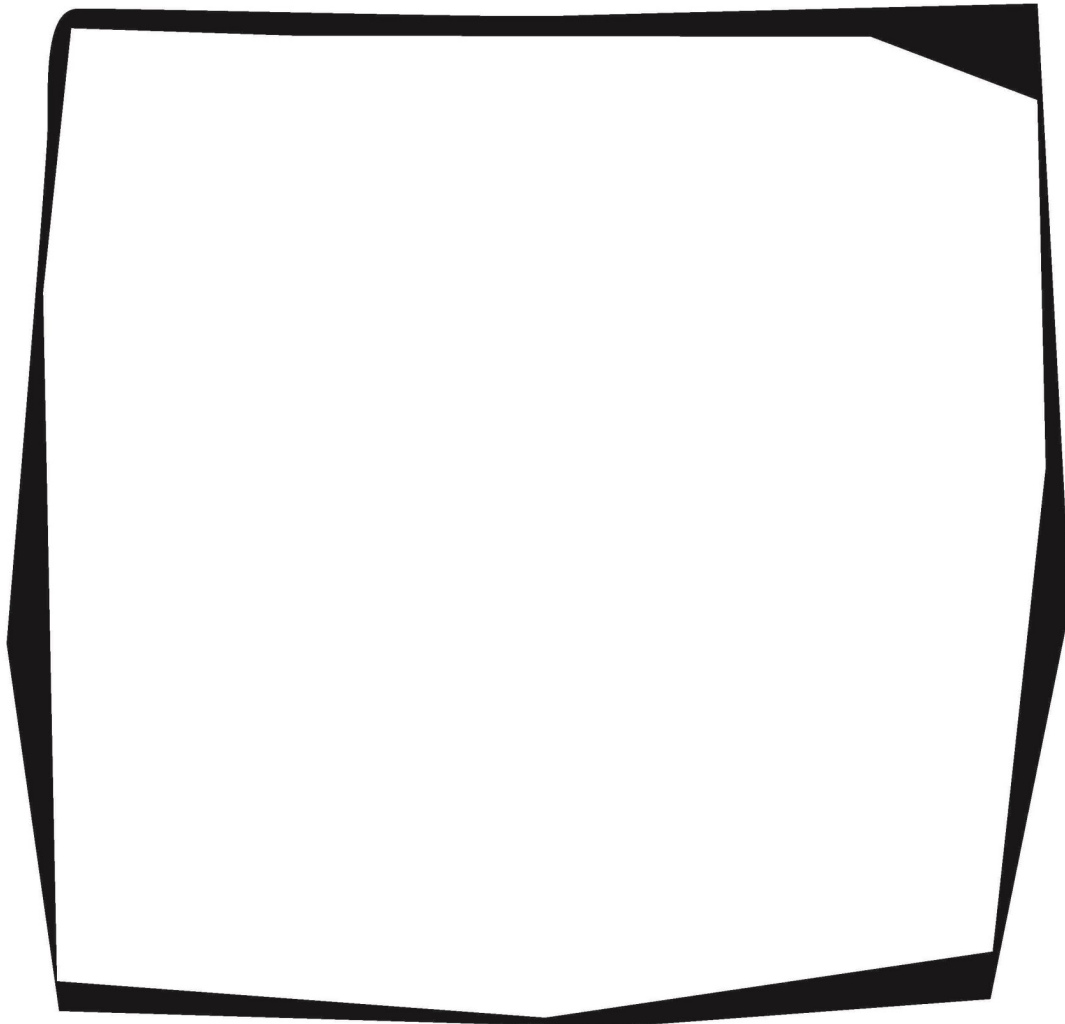
Advent 4

- Today is the **fourth Sunday** in **Advent**.
- During Advent we hear the **good news** that **Jesus is coming**.
- **Angels** brought this news to **Mary** and **Joseph**.



## Angels Everywhere

Do you see any pictures of angels around your church today? Where do you see them? **Draw and write about them here. If your worship space does not have angels, draw what you think angels look like in the space.**



Unscramble the underlined words to finish this week's memory verse.

## Memory Verse



She will reba a son, and you are to aemn him ssuej, for he will vsea his leppoe from their sins.

She will \_\_\_\_\_ a son, and you are to \_\_\_\_\_ him  
 \_\_\_\_\_, for he will \_\_\_\_\_ his  
 \_\_\_\_\_ from their sins. Matthew 1:21

## Joseph + Angel = Good News

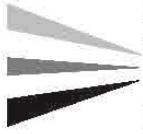
An angel came to Joseph and told him that Mary was going to have a baby. The angel told Joseph that this was **good news!** The angel also told Joseph to name the baby Jesus. What is special about the name Jesus? Solve these math problems to find out!

2=U	4=I	5=J	6=S	8=V	9=R	
10=O	12=A	15=N	25=M	30=E		
25 ÷ 5 <u>5</u> J	6 x 5 <u>30</u> E	18 ÷ 3 _____	22 ÷ 11 _____	-1 + 7 _____	125 ÷ 5 _____	12 + 18 _____
48 ÷ 4 _____	20 + -5 _____	36 ÷ 6 _____	3 x 2 _____	31 - 19 _____	2 x 2 x 2 _____	48 ÷ 12 _____
99 - 89 _____	3 x 3 _____					

In ancient times, there were no post offices, so letters had to be delivered in person. Phoebe was a wealthy woman who supported Paul. She was probably the person who carried Paul's letter to the Romans. She went all the way from Corinth, Greece to Rome, Italy. That's over 600 miles (almost 1000 kilometers)!

## Did You Know?





## Posting Paul's Message

Paul was an **apostle**. This means he was **sent out** on a mission: to spread God's message to the world! Paul used **letters** to spread his message.

Use this postcard to write a letter to a family member or friend. You can cut it out when you get home and send it to them. Tell them that Jesus is coming and that Jesus loves them!

The postcard template consists of a large rectangular frame. A horizontal line is positioned approximately one-third of the way down from the top edge. In the lower half of the frame, three vertical lines are spaced evenly across the width. In the bottom right corner, there is a small square box, likely intended for a postage stamp.

# Advent Spaces

During Advent, your church probably uses some decorations that you don't see the rest of the year.

Here is a picture of how one church decorates during Advent. Color it in! How is this different from your church? Ask your pastor why you have the decorations you do, and what they mean.

