

WELCOME:

Opening Prayer:

Holy God of Love,
We rejoice in the reality of who you are.
We live within the joy of your love for us.
Our contentment comes and goes.
Our happiness ebbs and flows.
Our feelings depend upon our circumstances,
But our joy is deeply rooted
in our identity as your beloved children.
And we give you thanks for the grace
You show us as your beloved. Amen.

~ adapted from Joanna Harader, <http://spaciousfaith.com/>

GATHERING SONG: ELW 257 "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

Verse 8

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

Refrain

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

Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING:

Watch and wait for the coming of Christ! Each week of Advent we will light the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, as we welcome these gifts of the Christ child born in our hearts to share with the world.

On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of love. May its glow warm our hearts with the love of Christ and send us to radiate grace and mercy upon all we encounter

Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.
Help us to prepare for your Advent within the world,
Prepare our hearts to receive you in love,
and send us to share your love in word and deed. Amen.

OFFERING

SPECIAL MUSIC: "O Come All Ye Faithful & God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"
Liz Rewolinski & Andy Root - Flutes

Your generous giving sustains our ministry. To give online, go to desertcross.org and click the online giving button, sign up for online Bill Pay, or mail offerings to Desert Cross, 8600 S. McClintock Dr., Tempe AZ 85284. We give thanks to God as you help us reach out beyond the walls!

FIRST READING: Luke 1:46b-55 *Reader Deb Christiansen*

^{46b}My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, ⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed: ⁴⁹you, the Almighty, have done great things for me and holy is your name. ⁵⁰You have mercy on those who fear you, from generation to generation. ⁵¹You have shown strength with your arm and scattered the proud in their conceit, ⁵²casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly. ⁵³You have filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴You have come to the aid of your servant Israel, to remember the promise of mercy, ⁵⁵the promise made to our forbears, to Abraham and his children forever.



*Desert Cross Lutheran Church
Gilbert, AZ*

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: "Come, Light Our Hearts"

For You, O Lord our souls in stillness wait
For You, O Lord our souls in stillness wait
Truly our hope is in You
Truly our hope is in You

CCLI Song # 7054135 Sandra McCracken
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GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38

²⁶In 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.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON: Pastor Andrea Cain

SERMON SONG: "Mary Did You Know?" – Michael Lottes

Verse 1:

Mary did you know
That your baby boy
Would one day walk on water
Mary did you know
That your baby boy
Would save our sons and daughters
Did you know
That your baby boy
Has come to make you new
This Child that you delivered
Will soon deliver you

Verse 2:

Mary did you know
That your baby boy
Would give sight to the blind man
Mary did you know
That your baby boy
Would calm a storm with His hand
Did you know
That your baby boy
Has walked where angels trod
And when you kiss your little baby
You've kissed the face of God
Oh Mary did you know

Bridge:

The blind will see
The deaf will hear
The dead will live again
The lame will leap
The dumb will speak
The praises of the Lamb

Verse 3

Oh Mary did you know
That your baby boy
Is Lord of all creation
Mary did you know
That your baby boy
Will one day rule the nations
Did you know
That your baby boy
Is heaven's perfect Lamb
And the sleeping Child you're holding
Is the great I Am
Oh Mary oh

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*Desert Cross Lutheran Church
Tempe, AZ*

Advent Prayer:

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Christ, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Let us pray.

God of Advent,

In this season of waiting, of longing,
of looking for joy to come into our world
we are seeking the love of Christ ...

In our own lives
Help us see your love

In our neighbourhoods
Help us share your love

In our families
Help us feel your love

In our work
Help us hear your love

In our nation
Help us shine your love

In our world
Help us reflect your love

In the pandemic and in all suffering
May your love heal us

Help us to declare your unfailing love
In word, thought, and deed
As we treasure your gifts in our hearts.

Jesus Christ you are the light of the world
May we have eyes to see you
Ears to hear you
Hands and feet to share you
Come into our world today
Amen.

[adapted from Grace Church, Ealing, London.](http://www.freshworship.org/) <http://www.freshworship.org/>

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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,
forever and ever. Amen.



SENDING SONG: ELW 251 "My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness"

- 1 My soul proclaims your greatness, Lord;
I sing my Savior's praise!
You looked upon my lowliness,
and I am full of grace.
Now ev'ry land and ev'ry age
this blessing shall proclaim—
great wonders you have done for me,
and holy is your name.
- 2 To all who live in holy fear
your mercy ever flows.
With mighty arm you dash the proud,
their scheming hearts expose.
The ruthless you have cast aside,
- the lowly throned instead;
the hungry filled with all good things,
the rich sent off unfed.
- 3 To Israel, your servant blest,
your help is ever sure;
the promise to our parents made
their children will secure.
Sing glory to the Holy One,
give honor to the Word,
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High,
one God, by all adored.

Text: *With One Voice*, 1995, based on the Magnificat
Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

BENEDICTION:

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

Musicians: *Daniel Decker (vocalist), Michael Lottes (vocalist),
Liz Rewolinski and Andy Root (flutes)*