

**Fourth Sunday in Advent
December 19, 2021
Living Faith Lutheran Church, Davis Bay, BC**

Preservice music/announcements

Welcome

In this time and place, we gather on the unceded ancestral lands of the shíshálh Nation.
With people from many places and times, we come to this house of prayer.

In this time and place, we meet in the presence of the living God.
The living God who creates us and all that is.

In this time and place, the risen Christ stands in our midst.,
The risen Christ who accompanies us and all people.

In this time and place, God's Holy Spirit breathes in and through us.
The Holy Spirit who transforms us and all life.

In this time and place, together, one people of God.
In the name of God, Source of all being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit. Amen.

GATHERING

Lighting of the Advent wreath

The Advent wreath is a symbol of God's holy love, shining like light on the earth.
It is round because love never ends. It is green because love always grows.
It uses four candles, one lit each week, to symbolize the power of love
that enlightens the world and dispels the darkness

Along with the first three candles, we light the fourth, the candle of love,
the love which shines through the darkness. We celebrate the love,
which strengthened Mary and Joseph, and the love that is ours in Jesus Christ.
We pray for the day when God's love is fulfilled for all creation.

Sung to the tune of hymn #247:

**Come now, O God of love, make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.**

**O God, you ask us to open our hearts to your presence in the world.
In this season of waiting, we make our hearts ready by being open
to your love in this world.**

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who alone does wonders,
who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God for whom we wait, **in the presence of one another,
we confess our sin before you.**

We fail in believing that your good news is for us.

We falter in our call to tend your creation.

We find our sense of self in material wealth.

We fear those different from ourselves.

We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love.

Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favour upon you!

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, † your sins are forgiven.

You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise,
and recipients of divine mercy.

God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn - # 263 Saviour of the Nations, Come

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the refining fire of the Holy Spirit,
and the peace of God which passes all understanding be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant
grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that 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. **Amen.**

Advent Hymn of Praise - # 251 My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

WORD

First Reading

Micah 5:2-5a

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Luke 1:46b-55 *read antiphonally*

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

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel verse **#262 "Wait for the Lord"** *Sing 3x* *Please rise if able*

Holy Gospel Luke 1:39-45 **Glory to you, O Lord.**
The Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day- # 723 Canticle of Turning

Thanksgiving for the Word

We praise you, O God, for your creating Word!
You set the foundations of the world and gave breath to every living thing.
There is no Rock like you. Blessed be God, forevermore;
our hearts sing of your mercy and might!

We praise you, O God, for your liberating Word!
In your steadfast love you led the people whom you redeemed,
you guided them by your strength to the land of promise.
You have lifted up the lowly. Blessed be God, forevermore;
our hearts sing of your mercy and might!

We praise you, O God, for your life-giving Word!
Your Word became flesh and lived among us, full of grace and truth.
You have looked with favour on the lowliness of your servants.

Blessed be God, forevermore;
our hearts sing of your mercy and might!

Blessed be God, from this time on and forevermore,
from the rising of the sun to its setting.
With Miriam, Hannah, and Mary, we give you thanks and praise
for your creating, liberating, and life-giving Word!
Send us forth in the power of your Spirit
to sing of your greatness and serve all people,
following Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

A musical reflection

Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in God the Creator who was, who is,
and who will be forever the source of all that is;
who loves the world and says it is good.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ - the presence of God embodied and among us.
Jesus walks with the lonely; eats with sinners; feeds the hungry;
forgives the unforgivable; and continues to show us the way.
He calls us to a life that death cannot end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, who has spoken through the prophets and
continues to urge us to live fully and honestly - seeking justice, loving kindness,
and walking humbly, as a forgiven and forgiving people whose joy gives life.**

**We believe in God's salvation now and in the world to come;
which is freely given to all and not a result of works.**

**We believe in the church as community. Though flawed and imperfect,
the church offers a place for everyone.**

**We believe that Christ is among us and leads us to give ourselves away in love.
We believe we are called to choose hope, to resist evil,
to advocate for the oppressed, and to rejoice in the gift of life. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Sharing of the Peace

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

SENDING

Sending Hymn I Sing to My Saviour

The text is written by contemporary American writer Carolyn Winfrey Gillette and is printed (with permission) below. Sung to "Let All Things Now Living" ELW #881

I sing to my Savior, for God has shown favor
on one who is lowly, of humble degree.
Now each generation, with great celebration,
will speak of God's mercy to people like me.
They'll pass on the story that God who is holy
Shows mercy to those who respect God's good ways.
Though times are distressing, I know of God's blessing.
My Spirit rejoices! I give thanks and praise.

I sing of God's power o'er those who devour;
God scatters the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
God casts down the mighty and lifts up the lowly;
God offers us justice and hope and new starts.
God fills up the hungry, surrounds them with plenty,
and sends out the rich people, empty, away.
As God has long promised to save and to bless us,
So God walks beside us in love every day.

Blessing

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. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is near. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude