

SAINT PAUL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Matthew 1:21
YOU are to
name him
Jesus!



Hope

Peace

Joy

Love



The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Announcing Our Lord's Coming!

— THE ORDER OF WORSHIP —

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS & CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS

THE OCCASION

PASTOR WILLIAM HALE

Advent is the beginning of the Christian Calendar; the word Advent means "coming" or "arrival." The focus of the entire season is two-fold... a celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ, his First Advent; and, the anticipation of Christ's Second Coming, his Second Advent. In this double-focus on past and future, the Church celebrates God's inbreaking into history in the Incarnation, and anticipates a future consummation for which "all creation is groaning, awaiting its redemption." He Came, and He's Coming Again... ADVENT!

THE PROCESSIONAL

*"Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and everywhere
Go tell it on the mountain, That Jesus Christ is born."*

THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

THE DOXOLOGY

*"Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above each heavenly host, Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen."*

THE CALL TO WORSHIP — *Adapted from Isaiah 9*

LEADER: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. (v.2)

PEOPLE: Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood
will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. (v.5)

LEADER: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders. (v.6a)

PEOPLE: And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace! (v.6b)

THE WORSHIP HYMN

#106 AMEC Hymnal — **"O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL"**

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem. Come and behold Him, born the King of angels; <i>Refrain</i>	2. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest; <i>Refrain</i>
REFRAIN O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.	3. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to Thee be glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing. <i>Refrain</i>

THE WORSHIP PRAYER

THE PRAYER RESPONSE

*"He is Lord, He is Lord! He is risen from the dead and he is Lord!
Ev'ry knee shall bow, ev'ry tongue confess That Jesus Christ is Lord."*

— THE WORD OF GOD WITH ADVENT MOMENTS —

— HOPE —

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

MICAH 5:2-5A (NIV2011)

² "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."
³ Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. ⁴ He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the

LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. ^{5a} And he will be our peace...

LEADER: The Lord has promised justice and righteousness in the land. The days are surely coming. Our eyes are open, our hearts are ready. The present will not distract our focus, for we believe that a day of justice will come! Our strength is in our hope. We light this candle confident that Jesus will return to reward our hope in Him.

LIGHTING THE "Royal Blue" ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE

LEADER: *All Together...*

PEOPLE: **The cares of today will not rob us of our hope in Jesus Christ's return. Jesus is our Light, and through Him we are empowered to eradicate despair, expose injustice, and be liberated by the Gospel. Through Jesus Christ, we have the audacity to hope!**

LEADER: *Let us sing...*

HYMN PRAISE!

#115 AMEC Hymnal — **"HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING"**

1. Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With th' angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem."
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!
2. Christ, by highest heaven adored: Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Late in time behold him come, Offspring of the favoured one.
Veiled in flesh, the Godhead see; Hail, th'incarnate Deity:
Pleased, as man, with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!
3. Hail! the heaven-born Prince of peace! Hail! the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, Risen with healing in his wings
Mild he lays his glory by, Born that man no more may die:
Born to raise the son of earth, Born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King !"

— PEACE —

THE SONG

LUKE 1:46-55 (NIV2011)

⁴⁶ And Mary said:
"My soul glorifies the Lord ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
⁴⁸ for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.
From now on all generations will call me blessed, ⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things
for me— holy is his name.
⁵⁰ His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.
⁵¹ He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their
inmost thoughts.
⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.
⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful
⁵⁵ to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors."

LEADER: Jesus has given us peace to sustain us in these days, but Jesus' second coming will bring a lasting peace. Who can endure the day of Jesus coming? Even now, Lord, give us peace in this day that lions and lambs will coexist, bearing witness of your love and power. We light this candle hopeful of the day of everlasting peace

LIGHTING THE "Royal Blue" ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE

LEADER: *All Together...*

PEOPLE: **Come Lord Jesus, come! We yearn for everlasting peace when injustice will lose its grip, and you will reign forever and ever!**

LEADER: *Let us sing...*

HYMN PRAISE!

#116 AMEC Hymnal — **“SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT”**

1. Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

4. Silent night, holy night, All is dark, save the light;
Yonder, where they sweet vigils keep, O'er the Babe who in slent sleep,
Rests in heavenly peace, Rests in heavenly peace.

— JOY —

THE EPISTLE LESSON

HEBREWS 10:5-10 (NIV2011)

⁵ Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said:

“Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me;

⁶ with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased.

⁷ Then I said, ‘Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—I have come to do your will, my God.’”

⁸ First he said, “Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them”—though they were offered in accordance with the law. ⁹ Then he said, “Here I am, I have come to do your will.” He sets aside the first to establish the second. ¹⁰ And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

LEADER: Rejoice with all your heart for Jesus is our joy! In this season of reflection and repentance we can have joy knowing that Jesus has forgiven us and restored our joy. Joy is liberating. Joy sets us free. We will rejoice with gladness, eager for the day of Jesus’ return when we will have perpetual joy. We light the pink candle of joy, signifying our joyful focus on Jesus’ second coming. Let every heart rejoice!

LIGHTING THE “Pink Rose” ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY

LEADER: *All Together...*

PEOPLE: **Joy liberates! Joy gives confidence! God has given us His joy. We will share our joy with the unloved and the outcast, the discriminated and the unwanted, the overlooked and the underserved. We praise you God, for your liberating joy!**

LEADER: *Let us sing...*

HYMN PRAISE!

#118 AMEC Hymnal — **“ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH”**

1. Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains. *Refrain*

REFRAIN:
Glo-o-o-ria ... in excelsis Deo.
Glo-o-o-ria ... in excelsis De-e-o.

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be,
Which inspire your heavenly songs? *Refrain*

3. Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. *Refrain*



– LOVE –

THE GOSPEL

LUKE 1:39-45 (NIV2011)

³⁹ At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰ where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³ But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

LEADER: Today is the last Sunday in the season of Advent, the Sunday of LOVE. During the Christmas Season we celebrate Jesus' birth – Jesus our Savior: born to live and die and come again, born to give perfect life in an imperfect and unjust world. The God of hope, peace, joy and love calls us to bring hope to the hopeless, be peacemakers in a chaotic world, to share the joy of Jesus with the world, and to love to the unloved.

LIGHTING THE "Royal Blue" ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE

LEADER: *All Together...*

PEOPLE: As we prepare for this Christmas season, we give gifts as a reminder of the greatest Gift given to us by God — Jesus the Christ! Today we give the gift of ourselves, to be instruments of God's Love, for God so LOVED the World, that He gave his only Son, to die for us... Help us Lord to give the gift of Love!

LEADER: *Let us sing...*

HYMN PRAISE!

#120 AMEC Hymnal — "JOY TO THE WORLD"

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing.
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love.

THE FINAL ADVENT MOMENT

PASTOR WILLIAM HALE

"THE UNLIT CANDLE"

THE INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

THE ALTAR CALL & WORSHIP IN GIVING

THE WELCOME

THE FINAL REMARKS

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

"Let us proclaim our common faith..."

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. The third day he arose from the dead; he ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the church universal, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sin, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Amen.

THE DOXOLOGY
& BENEDICTION

*"Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above each heavenly host, Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen."*

WELCOME TO SAINT PAUL!

The Fourth Sunday of Advent – The Sunday of LOVE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER LIST

BIRTHDAYS
