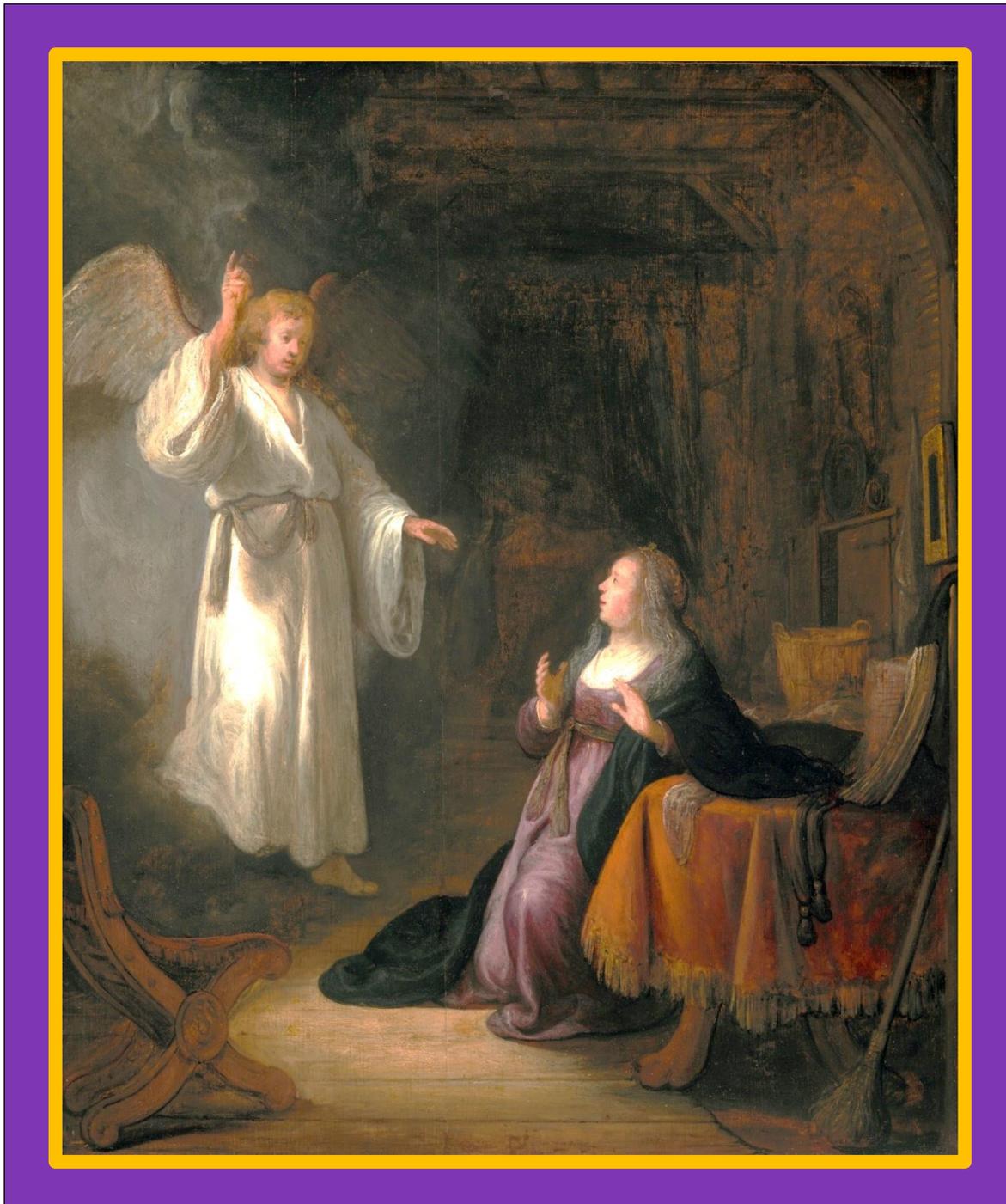


# ***Fourth Sunday of Advent***

**December 20, 2020    10:30 a.m.**



***The Annunciation***  
~ Rembrandt van Rijn

**Watch our Chapel Service on CHANNEL 102**

# Order of Worship

***Bells of Taizé***

Taizé  
*Music of Unity & Peace*

***Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel*** Rhonda R.: piano solo

***Oh, come, O Key of David, come.  
And open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery.***

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

**Text:** *Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln; tr. John M. Neule, alt. **Music:** French processional

## **Lighting the Advent Wheel: Advent IV**

We praise you, O God,  
for this wheel of time  
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.  
As we light the candles on this wooden crown,  
open our eyes to see your presence  
in the lowly ones of this earth.  
Enlighten us with your grace,  
that we may sing of your advent among us  
in the Word made flesh.  
Grant this through Christ our Lord,  
whose coming is certain  
and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

## Greeting & Response

To God Only Wise, through Jesus Christ,  
***be glory forever and ever.***

## Prayer of the Day

Henri J.M. Nouwen

Lord Jesus,  
 Master of both the light and the darkness,  
 send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.  
 We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces  
 to hear your voice each day.  
 We who are anxious over many things  
 look forward to your coming among us.  
 We who are blessed in so many ways  
 long for the complete joy of your kingdom.  
 We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.  
 We are your people, walking in darkness,  
 yet seeking the light.  
 To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!" **Amen.**

## ***Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus*** Rhonda R.: piano solo

*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 ev'ry nation,  
 Joy of ev'ry longing heart.*

**(Turn page)**

**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.**

**Text:** Charles Wesley; **Music:** W. Walker, Southern Harmony

## **Prayer of Confession**

O God, we confess that we have let cares and pleasures of this world distract us from watching for you, the Belovèd of our soul. Forgive us our self-centered ways; renew our devotion; and come, Lord Jesus, come. **Amen.**

## **Absolution**

*Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her, that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.* Therefore, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, I declare unto you the forgiveness of your sins, and God's gifts of a pure heart, and a joyful spirit. **Amen.**

## **Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming**

ELW 272

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!  
 Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung,  
 It came, a flow'r so bright, amid the cold of winter,  
 When half-spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind;  
 With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.  
 To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior,  
 When half-spent was the night.

This flow'r, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,  
 Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness ev'rywhere.  
 True man, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us  
 And lightens ev'ry load.

O Savior, child of Mary, who felt our human woe;  
 O Savior, king of glory, who dost our weakness know:  
 Bring us at length, we pray,  
 To the bright courts of heaven and into endless day.

**Text:** German carol, 15<sup>th</sup> cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, sts. 1-2; Harriet R. Krauth, st. 3; John C. Mattes, st. 4; **Music:** *Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln; arr. Michael Praetorius



**II Samuel 7:1-11; 16**

Paraphrased by Pastor

**Luke 1:26-38**

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.

**(Turn page)**

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.

## **Annunciation**

Denise Levertov

## **Sermon**

Pr. Kristine

## ***The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came***

ELW 265

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
 With wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame.  
*All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,*  
*Most highly favored lady. Gloria!*

*For now a blessed mother thou shalt be,  
All generations laud and honor thee;  
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,  
Most highly favored lady. Gloria!*

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;  
*To me be as it pleaseth God, she said.  
My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name.  
Most highly favored lady. Gloria!*

**Text:** Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould; **Music:** Basque carol; arr. C. Edgar Pettman and John Wickham. Arr. © 1955, 1983 E. H. Freeman Ltd., admin. Glenwood Music Corp.

## Prayers of Your People

## Invitation to Silent Prayer

All things we ask and thank you for are yours,  
O God of our salvation.  
With grateful hearts today  
we lay our offerings of prayer  
at your feet. **Amen.**

*Piano offering of “Still, Still, Still” is played by Rhonda R.  
as silent prayers are offered.*



## Instruction Concerning the Lord's Supper



## HOLY COMMUNION

### Invitation

Even as we watch and wait,  
Christ is here.  
Come, eat and drink.

### Words of Institution

### Lord's Prayer

### The Meal

***What Feast of Love***

ELW 487

What feast of love is offered here,  
What banquet come from heaven?  
What food of everlasting life,  
What gracious gift is given?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
The bread come down from heaven.  
O taste and see and sing!  
How sweet the manna given!

What wine of love is offered here,  
What crimson drink from heaven?  
What stream of everlasting life,  
What precious blood is given?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
The sweetest wine of heaven.  
Oh, taste and see and sing!  
The Son of God is given!

**Text:** Delores Dufner, OSB; **Music:** English ballad. Text © 1993 Delores Dufner, admin. OCP Publications

**Prayer after Communion**

Gracious and abundant God,  
you have done great things for us, and we rejoice.  
In this bread and cup you give us life forever.  
In your boundless mercy, strengthen us  
and open our hearts to the world's needs,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

***My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness***

ELW 251

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.

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.

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.

## Announcements & Thanksgiving

### Watch!

*A Christmas Story Told in Paint*

Wednesday, December 23

3:30 PM on Channel 104

~ ~ ~

### Look & Listen!

On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, the Nativity *tryptich* will be on display in the NRC Chapel, and the Christmas story in song and word will fill the air!

3:30 PM on Channel 105

Thursday, December 24; Friday, December 25

## A Blessed Leave-Taking

ELW 242 & 240

Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,  
 Though dark the winter and cheerless,  
 The rising sun shall crown you with light,  
 Be strong and loving and fearless.  
 Love be our song and love our prayer  
 And love our endless story;  
 May God fill ev'ry day we share  
 And bring us at last into glory.

Light four candles to watch for Messiah:  
 Let the light banish darkness.  
 He is coming, tell the glad tidings.  
 May your lights be shining!

**Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord. He who was and who is and who is to come! Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

*... Watch for Messiah*

Rhonda R.

# A Christmas Story Told in Paint

**Wednesday, December 23  
3:30 PM on Channel 104**



The completed work will be in the Chapel  
on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Tune to Channel 105 on Christmas Eve and  
Christmas Day to view this Word in paint and listen  
to the Message shared in Scripture, light and song.



## **Christmas Worship Calendar 3:30 PM on Channel 105**

Christmas Eve            12/24/2020            Look & Listen:  
NRC Chapel

Christmas Day            12/25/2020            Look & Listen:  
NRC Chapel

## **Christmas Sunday 10:30 AM on Channel 102**

First Sunday of Christmas    12/27/2020            In the Temple with  
Simeon & Anna



CELEBRATING *50 years*

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