

**Advent 4 (20<sup>th</sup> December, 2020)**

**Pastor Peter Ghalayini**

*M:* The angel said to Mary, 'Do not be afraid, for you have found favour with God.

*All:* **You will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.**

*M:* He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High,

*All:* **and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David.'**

**Lighting of the Advent Candle**

*1 Corinthians 13*

*M:* Let us pray: Help me Lord Jesus to be a light for others to see your forgiveness and to know your love.

Thank you for this incredible life-changing love!

*All:* **Amen.**

**Opening Hymn– O come all ye faithful**

*LHS 34*

- 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:**

*O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord!*

- God of God, Light of light,  
Lo, He abhors not the virgin's womb;  
Very God,  
Begotten, not created:**

*O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord!*

3. See how the shepherds,  
Summoned to his cradle,  
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh  
with lowly fear;  
We too will thither  
bend our joyful footsteps:

*O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord!*

*Music: asc. J.F. Wade c. 1711-1786;  
Words: Adeste fideles, Latin hymn, before 18<sup>th</sup> c,  
Tr Frederick Oakeley, 1852, alt. In the public domain.*

*M:* Let us come to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and confess our sins;

*C:* **We confess to you, almighty God,  
before the whole company of heaven, and to each other,  
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed, by our own fault.  
Have mercy on us, for Jesus' sake, forgive us all our sins,  
and bring us to eternal life.  
Amen.**

*M:* As a called and ordained servant of the Word I announce the grace of God to all of you. On behalf of my Lord Jesus Christ, and by his command, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

*All:* **Amen.**

*M:* Your love, O Lord, for ever will I sing;  
Lord have mercy,

*All:* **Lord have mercy,**

*M:* from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.  
Christ have mercy,

*All:* **Christ have mercy.**

*M:* For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever;  
Lord have mercy,

*All:* **Lord have mercy.**

*M:* The Lord be with you,

*All:* **And also with you.**

*M:* Let us pray for God to be with us.

*All:* **Thank you, loving heavenly Father,  
for coming with power to the Virgin Mary and making her the mother  
of our Lord.**

**Come to us with your Holy Spirit,  
so that we receive your saving word  
and rejoice in our Saviour.**

**For he lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

### **First Reading – 2 Samuel 7:1-11,16**

#### *God's promise to David*

<sup>1</sup>After the king was settled in his palace and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup>he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent."

<sup>3</sup>Nathan replied to the king, "Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the Lord is with you." <sup>4</sup>But that night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, saying: <sup>5</sup>"Go and tell my servant David, 'This is what the Lord says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in?

<sup>6</sup>I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. <sup>7</sup>Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"' <sup>8</sup>"Now then, tell my servant David, 'This is what the Lord Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. <sup>9</sup>I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning <sup>11</sup>and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your

enemies. “The Lord declares to you that the Lord himself will establish a house for you: <sup>16</sup>Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.”

*R:* This is the Word of the Lord.

*All:* **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 89:1-4,19-26 (Spoken responsively)**

*M:* <sup>1</sup> I will sing of the Lord’s great love forever;  
with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.

*All:* <sup>2</sup> **I will declare that your love stands firm forever, that you have established your faithfulness in heaven itself.**

*M:* <sup>3</sup> You said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to David my servant,

*All:* <sup>4</sup> **‘I will establish your line forever and make your throne firm through all generations.’**

*M:* <sup>19</sup> Once you spoke in a vision,  
to your faithful people you said:

*All:* **“I have bestowed strength on a warrior;  
I have raised up a young man from among the people.**

*M:* <sup>20</sup> I have found David my servant;  
with my sacred oil I have anointed him.

*All:* <sup>21</sup> **My hand will sustain him;  
surely my arm will strengthen him.**

*M:* <sup>22</sup> The enemy will not get the better of him;  
the wicked will not oppress him.

*All:* <sup>23</sup> **I will crush his foes before him  
and strike down his adversaries.**

*M:* <sup>24</sup> My faithful love will be with him,  
and through my name his horn will be exalted.

*All:* <sup>25</sup> **I will set his hand over the sea,  
his right hand over the rivers.**

*M:* <sup>26</sup> He will call out to me, ‘You are my Father,

**All: my God, the Rock my Saviour.'**

**Second Reading – Romans 16:25-27**

*God reveals his age-long purpose in Jesus*

<sup>25</sup> Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, <sup>26</sup> but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith— <sup>27</sup> to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

**R:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**M:** Alleluia, alleluia.

(Mary said:) Here am I, the servant of the Lord,

**All: let it be with me according to your word.**

**Alleluia.**

**Gospel Reading – Luke 1:26-38**

*God's call to Mary*

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup> Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favour with God. <sup>31</sup> You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." <sup>34</sup> "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup> The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a

child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup> For no word from God will ever fail.” <sup>38</sup> “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

*M:* This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*All: (Spoken) Praise to you, O Christ.*

**Lord Jesus, thank you for showing favour to Mary and to us.  
Help us to trust in you as the Son of God.**

**Amen.**

**Gospel Hymn – Tell out, my soul**      *LHS 903*

- 1. Tell out, my soul,  
the greatness of the Lord!  
Unnumbered blessings,  
give my spirit voice;  
tender to me the  
promise of his Word;  
in God my Saviour  
shall my heart rejoice.**
- 2. Tell out, my soul,  
the greatness of his name!  
Make known his might,  
the deeds his arm has done;  
his mercy sure,  
from age to age the same;  
his holy name  
- the Lord, the mighty One.**
- 3. Tell out, my soul,  
the glories of his Word!  
Firm is his promise,  
and his mercy sure.  
Tell out, my soul,  
the greatness of the Lord  
to children’s children  
and for evermore!**

*Music: Walter Greatorex 1877-1949;  
Words: Based on the Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55), Timothy  
Dudley-Smith 1926-  
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## Sermon

*All:* 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.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again  
from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and sits at the right hand of God,  
the Father almighty,  
from thence he will come to judge  
the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.

Amen.

## Offering Hymn – Angels from the realms of glory *LH 46*

1. Angels, from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story,  
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

*Come and worship,  
come and worship,  
worship Christ, the new-born King.*

2. **Shepherds, in the field abiding,  
watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing,  
yonder shines the infant light:**

*Come and worship,  
come and worship,  
worship Christ, the new-born King.*

3. **Sages, leave your contemplations,  
brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great desire of nations;  
ye have seen his natal star:**

*Come and worship,  
come and worship,  
worship Christ, the new-born King.*

4. **All creation, join in praising,  
God the Father, Spirit, Son.  
Evermore your voices raising  
to the eternal Three in One:**

*Come and worship,  
come and worship,  
worship Christ, the new-born King.*

<p><i>Music: J. Randall 1715-1799 (c.1774); Words: James Montgomery 1771-1854 In the public domain</i></p>
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**M:** Let us pray:

Lord, as Mary accepted your will,  
may we also accept your will  
and rejoice in Christ our Saviour.  
Let your good news change our lives,  
and make us trusting and obedient,  
always ready to serve you with all we are and all we have.

**All:** Amen.

**Prayer of the church**

*M:* Lord, teach us to pray:

*All:* **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.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom,  
the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever.  
Amen.**

*M:* Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, shine on you and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory.  
Go in the peace of the Lord, who has sent his Son to rule forever.

*All:* **Thanks be to God.  
Amen.**

*M:* The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you  
and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favour,  
† and give you peace.

*All:* **Amen.**

**Closing Hymn – Joy to the world** *LHS 627*

- 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 heaven and nature sing.**
- 2. Joy to the world! the Saviour reigns:  
Let all their songs employ,  
While fields and floods,  
rocks, hills and plains**

**Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

- 3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse if found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.**
- 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, wonders of His love.**

*Music: H. Lahee 1826-1912 (1855);  
Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748)  
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