

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Sunday, December 22, 2024 — 11:00 AM

Thought for the Day

“I don’t know why one person gets sick, and another does not, but I can only assume that some natural laws which we don’t understand are at work. I cannot believe that God “sends” illness to a specific person for a specific reason... “What did I do to deserve this?”

is an understandable outcry from a sick and suffering person, but it is really the wrong question... The better question is, “If this has happened to me, what do I do now, and who is there to help me do it?”

— Harold S. Kushner, *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*

Prelude

Adoration
by Florence Beatrice Price

Invitation to Worship

*Opening Hymn **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (#154)**

*Call to Worship

Leader: Long ago, the people were given a sign of God’s presence.

All: “Look, she shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means “God with us.”

Leader: God’s promise to us remains sure and true:

All: God’s anointed Son will soon walk among us to lighten our darkness, to restore the joy of our salvation and to save us from sin.

Leader: Let us calm our spirits. Take time to hear the wondrous news: Christ will come.

All: Let us open our ears to hear Mary’s story and believe the Good News!

*Prayer of the Day

Leader: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray:

All: Lord, be with us this morning as we encounter Mary and hear of the wondrous news that she received. Remind us that, like Mary, each one of us is a bearer of your Good News, even in uncertain times. We are called to proclaim hope, peace, joy, and love in your name. Open our hearts and our spirits today to receive with great joy the love that you have for us. We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Greeting & Announcements

Advent Response (Sung)

Angels announce with shouts of mirth him who brings new life to earth.

Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.

People look east and sing today: Love, the Lord is on the way.

Candle Lighting

The Farah Family - Ramsay, Michelle, Mona, Yarah, Fouad

Advent Response (Sung)

People look east and sing today: Love, the Lord is on the way.

Prayers of the People & 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. Amen.

Invitation to Give

Give via credit card at give.dewittchurch.org or @dewittchurch on Venmo.

Offertory

*Doxology and Prayer of Thanksgiving (#34)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Scripture

Luke 1:39-55

³⁹At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴²In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!” ⁴⁶And Mary said: “My soul glorifies the Lord ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name. ⁵⁰His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. ⁵²He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. ⁵³He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful ⁵⁵to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors.”

Leader: The Word of The Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Anthem

Glory to God in the Highest
by Giovanni Battista Pergolesi

Message

Advent is Calling: Why Is This Happening to Me?
Rev. Dr. Alan Rudnick

*Closing Hymn

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (#185)

*Benediction

Postlude

Toccata on “Good King Wenceslas”
by Matthew Owens

Worship Assistant: Ben Titus

Livestream Tech: Glenn Blair

**Please stand as you are able.*

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Tuesday, December 24
Family Service & Nativity

4:30 PM

Candlelight Service

7:00 PM

9:00 PM



All are welcome!

**2024
CONNECTION CARD**

Today's date

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Phone / email

Phone / email

Select all that apply:

- I am new to DCC.
- I am a returning visitor/occasional attendee.
- I am a member.
- I would like to receive the monthly newsletter.
- I would like to receive the weekly e-mail announcements.
- I would like to receive care from a Stephen Minister.

I would like to share my gifts/talents with:

- Children's/Youth Ministry
- Altar Guild
- Christian Caring Committee
- Compassion Cooks
- Women's Association
- Choir/Bell Choir
- Ushers
- Facilities & Grounds
- DCC Office

Pastoral Staff
Rev. Dr. Alan R. Rudnick, Senior Minister
Ben Titus, Associate Minister
Rev. William A. Carlsen, Adjunct Minister

Staff
Abel Searor, Director of Worship Arts/Principal Organist
Mick Thorpe, Director of Building Services
Kim Maring, Financial Manager & Office Coordinator
Jennifer Russo, Communications Coordinator
Kathleen Sokolovic, Office Assistant
Anne Stock, Children's Ministry Director
Logan Roadarmel, Youth Ministry Director
Barb Turner, Children's Ministry Staff
Liam McDonough, Building Staff
Elizabeth Chapman, Volunteer Congregational Care Coordinator

Ministers: The Entire Congregation

Connect with us!
Office 315-445-0331

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Thank you!

*The Parlor is open with a simulcast of worship for families or individuals.
Hearing assistance devices are available from an usher in the Narthex. They are wireless and permit users to sit anywhere in the Sanctuary.
Large print bulletins are available each Sunday at the Usher's Desk.*



Advent IV: Why is this Happening to Me?

Luke 1:39-55

**DECEMBER 22, 2024
11 AM**

