

## Preparation Hymn CP 90

*How the World Longs for Your Birth*

Tune: Nun Komm, der Heifen Heiland

## Hymn During Communion CP 94

*Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.*

*Wait for the Lord, be strong, take Heart!*

Source: Taizé Community

## Closing Hymn CP 114

*Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending*

Tune: Helmsley

## Postlude: *Songs Without Words, Op.38, No. 5*

Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1807-1847)

## The Cathedral Church of All Saints



**December 22, 2024**

**Prelude Music:** *Overture Transcription: Amahl and the Night Visitors* Gian-Carlo Menotti (1907-2007)

### Advent Candle Lighting

#### Week Four: Love

**Reader One:** Because too many people are wandering in the wilderness, because too many people are sitting in the valley of the shadow of death, because too many of our conversations are laced with conflict and bitterness, we light candles...

**Reader Two:** Because people all over the world are suffering, and we're often too distracted to notice, we light candles...

**Reader One:** One for hope, one for peace, one for joy, and one for love... (*Light the fourth candle*)

**Reader Two:** May the light from these candles overwhelm the world.

**Reader One:** And may the fire from these candles burn away whatever would prevent God's love from being born among us.

**All:** Friends, let us not be not afraid, even now — even now — God's love is overwhelming the world, on earth as it already is in heaven!

**Hymn 89** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*  
[Verses 5-7]

### Advent 4 - Love

Reading the story of Mary's visit to Elizabeth through the lens of this week's Advent theme of "Love" is an invitation to reflect on what love really is, both God's love and ours. The Christmas story is an epic, multigenerational love story, a story of God coming to be with us through prestigious prophets and "nowhere" towns; through young women (Mary) and old women (Elizabeth); through stars and shepherds and scripture and song. In short, this beautiful, ancient story insists that God's love is a force that remakes the world.

Mary sings a revolutionary song about God's revolutionary love, and this story illustrates a series of recommendations for anyone today who longs for change. First, just as Mary studied and learned from her ancestor Hannah, we are wise to devote time to studying the tradition we've inherited, even learning some of its key forms and phrases by heart. In this way, we build on our ancestors' good work in our own lives — and at the same time, we can learn to experience our lives through ancient themes and patterns. Second, when new opportunities and challenges arise, we are wise to follow Mary's example and intentionally seek out allies, forming sanctuaries of love and mutual support. And third, drawing inspiration from both our forebears and our friends, the next step is having the courage to lift our voices and sing: *God's love is remaking the world!*

With all this in mind, we can set aside once and for all the picture of Mary as "meek and mild." She is nothing less than the first disciple, a force to be reckoned with, a young woman of vision, learning, artistry, and chutzpah. Her world-turning "yes" and "let it be" come from the same conviction that breaks into song: her fierce, bold, deep-down-in-her-bones trust that God's love, even now, is making all things new.

**Opening Hymn: CP 101** *Hail to the Lord's Anointed*

Tune: Crüger

**Children's Message**



**Collect**

**God of promise,  
you look with favour on the lowly, you scatter the  
proud and you fill the hungry. May we, like Mary,  
respond to your call and be obedient to your will;  
through Jesus Christ who is to come. Amen.**

*FWM Proposed Prayers (2004) alt.*

**The Proclamation of the Word**

**The First Reading**

*Reader* A reading from the book of Micah [5:2-5]

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; he shall be the one of peace.

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**Canticle 18: The Song of Mary CP 757**

Music: Russian Chant

**The Gradual Hymn [See insert]**

*Gabriel's message*

Tune: Basque Carol

**The Gospel**

*All stand, as able, for the proclamation of the Gospel.*

*Deacon* The Lord be with you

*People* **And also with you.**

*Deacon* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke [1: 39-56]

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When

Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

And Mary said,

'My soul magnifies the Lord,

and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,

for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

And Mary remained with her for about three months and then returned to her home.

*At the conclusion of the Gospel, the Deacon says,*

The Gospel of Christ.

*People* **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**



Today the Wine and Host, and the Bulletin are offered in memory of Mr. & Mrs. H.P. Chaddock from family

**The Prayer over the Gifts**

*All* **God of abundance,  
we bring before you the precious fruits of your  
creation, and with them our very lives.**

**Teach us patience and hope  
as we care for all those in need  
until the coming of your Son,  
our Saviour and Lord. Amen.**

*Evangelical Lutheran Worship (2006) alt.*