



November 29, 2020  
First Sunday of Advent  
Peace Lutheran Church of Plymouth  
*Daniel's Hope in God*

PRELUDE

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

Charles Wesley and  
W. Walker

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG  
Verses 1 and 2

*Blessed Be the God of Israel*

ELW 250

1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free  
2 With prom-ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,  
3 My child, as proph-et of the Lord you will pre-pare the way,

and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.  
the oath once sworn to A - bra-ham, from foes to save us all;  
to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.

So have the proph-ets long de - clared that with a might - y arm  
that we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise,  
Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease

God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.  
 in ho - li - ness and righ - teous - ness to serve God all our days.  
 to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

**ADVENT CANDLE WREATH LIGHTING**

Sometimes we pray, facing an unknown fate.  
 Sometimes we pray, facing an uncertain world.  
 Although he would soon be thrown to the lions, Daniel trusted in God.  
 We hold that hope.  
 When life takes us to the dangerous edge, we face our own lions.  
 We stay awake through the night, trying to tame depression, debt, job loss, addiction, broken relationships.  
 We draw our hope from God. And at dawn, the light comes again.

*Light the first candle (blue).*

“God is rescuer and savior; God performs signs and miracles in heaven and on earth.”  
 Our living God gives hope. AMEN

**ADVENT CANDLE SONG**

*Emmanuel*

W&P 36

Em-man - u - el, Em-man - u - el, His name is called  
 Em-man - u - el; God with us, re-vealed in us;  
 His name is called Em-man - u - el.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**ONE:** God of deliverance,  
 You rescued Daniel from the mouths of the lions when he was punished for worshipping you. Liberate all who are endangered for the sake of their faith, and rescue us from anything that separates us from worshipping only you, for the sake of the one who made your name known to all people, across land and seas, Jesus Christ, our redeemer.

**MANY: AMEN**

NARRATOR: Because of Daniel's exceptional abilities, it wasn't long before he distinguished himself over the other governors and officers. So King Darius decided to appoint him as head over the entire realm. This appointment did not sit well with the other leaders, so the governors and officers tried to find reasons to level charges against Daniel for the way he supervised the kingdom. Though they tried, they could find no basis for charges or any corruption in his office. Daniel was loyal and attentive in his duties.

CONSPIRATORS: We will never find any credible basis for charges against Daniel for how he conducts his office. Perhaps we can uncover some suitable charge in regard to the law of his God.

NARRATOR: The governors and officers agreed and went to the king with what they thought would be a way to entrap Daniel.

CONSPIRATORS (*to the king*): May King Darius live forever! <sup>7</sup> All the leaders of the empire—the governors, prefects, officers, advisors, and other administrators—have consulted together and are in complete agreement that the king should issue an edict and enforce it strictly to the effect that anyone who prays to another—whether divine or human—except for you, of course, good king, for a period of 30 days, will be thrown into the lions' den. <sup>8</sup> Now, O king, we ask that you establish such an ordinance and sign it into law, so that it cannot be changed. For the laws enacted by the Medes and Persians cannot be rescinded.

NARRATOR: <sup>9</sup> After considering their proposal, King Darius signed the ordinance and made it law. <sup>10</sup> Even though Daniel was aware the king had signed the ordinance into law, he continued to do what he always did. He would go home, ascend the stairs to the upper room—which had windows facing toward Jerusalem—and get down on his knees three times a day and pray to his God and praise Him. <sup>11</sup> One day the conspirators came to his house and found Daniel on his knees praying and seeking God's help. <sup>12</sup> So they went back to the king and asked to speak to him about the edict he had made.

CONSPIRATORS: O king! Did you not sign an edict expressly forbidding anyone, regardless of his nationality, to pray to another—whether divine or human—except for you, of course, good king, for a period of 30 days or else he would be thrown into the lion's den?

KING DARIUS: Indeed. I did sign it, and I intend to enforce it according to the laws of the Medes and Persians. It cannot be rescinded. Why do you ask?

CONSPIRATORS(*to the king*): <sup>13</sup> Well, recently we found your servant, Daniel, one of the exiles from Judah, kneeling and praying at his home three times a day to his God. He is ignoring you, O king, and the edict you signed into law.

NARRATOR: <sup>14</sup> When the king heard the charge, he was very upset. He thought a great deal of Daniel, so he tried to figure out a way to help him. All day long until evening he looked for some loophole in the law to keep Daniel from falling victim to his edict. <sup>15</sup> The conspirators returned to press the matter further.

CONSPIRATORS (*to the king*): We have no need to remind the king that according to the law of the Medes and Persians, no edict established by the king can be revoked, changed, or ignored.

NARRATOR: <sup>16</sup> With his honor at stake, the king had no choice. He gave the order for Daniel to be captured. Before Daniel was thrown into the pit with the lions, the king spoke to him.

KING Darius: May your God, the God you have served so faithfully, rescue you!

NARRATOR: <sup>17</sup> Daniel was thrown into the lions' den and a stone was brought in and placed over the opening to shut the mouth of the den. The king himself sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signets of his nobles. That way no one could tamper with the pit and nothing could happen to change Daniel's fate. <sup>18</sup> The king retired to his palace and spent the night fasting. That evening he stayed to himself, turning down his regular evening musical entertainment. When he finally went to bed, he could not sleep.

<sup>19</sup> When first light of morning finally arrived, the king got up and didn't waste any time returning to the lions' den. <sup>20</sup> As he drew near the den, with anguish in his voice he called out to Daniel, hoping somehow he was still alive.

KING DARIUS: Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, the One you have served so faithfully, been able to rescue you from these hungry lions?

DANIEL (*to the king*): <sup>21</sup> Long live the king! <sup>22</sup> As soon as you shut the mouth of this den, My God sent His heavenly representative to shut the mouths of these hungry lions so that they could not hurt me. He has rescued me because I am as innocent before Him as I am before you, O king. I have done you no harm.

NARRATOR: <sup>23</sup> The king could hardly contain his excitement and joy. He ordered that Daniel be taken up out of the lions' den. He was removed and examined carefully, but not even a scratch was found on him—all because he put his trust in His God. <sup>24</sup> The king gave yet another order; this time he demanded that those who accused Daniel of wrongdoing be captured and thrown into the lions' den—but not only them—their wives and children too. As they were being pushed into the den, before they even hit the bottom, the lions jumped on them, overpowered them, and crushed their bones in their powerful jaws. <sup>25</sup> Afterward King Darius sent a message to all the peoples through the world, regardless of their heritage, nationality, or language.

KING DARIUS: May peace and prosperity be yours! <sup>26</sup> I decree that all people everywhere who live under my sovereign rule ought to tremble before and fear the God of Daniel.

For He is the living God,  
and He will endure forever.

His kingdom will never be overthrown;  
His reign will know no end.

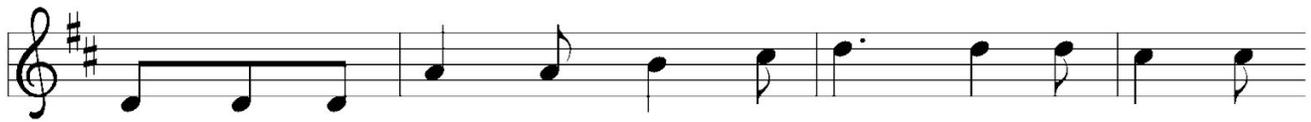
<sup>27</sup> He saves and rescues those who fear Him,  
performing signs and wonders in heaven and on earth;  
For He has rescued His servant Daniel  
from the power of the lions.

ONE: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

**MANY: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. Kjell M. Ferris



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing  
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is  
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the  
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,  
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,  
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look  
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look  
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

CREED

ONE: As we wait for the Christ child we continue to confess our faith in the Triune God.

**MANY:** I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day Jesus rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
is seated at the right hand of the Father,

**and will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. AMEN**

#### GREENING OF THE HOME

#### PRAYERS

ONE: In the silence following each petition, we are invited to lift up to God - through a single word, short phrase or mental image - whatever concerns lie on your heart. Hold that word, phrase, or image in your mind, placing that concern before God in the silence.

Let us pray,

Emmanuel--God with us--you turned from glory to humility, taking on a human body to walk among us. Let us pray for the world you love, for the creation you breathed into being and for all your people.

Word of Life, we pray for your creation and all marginalized people...

Ruler of the Nations, we pray for the leaders and politicians of the world...

Emmanuel, Divine-with-us, we pray for your church...

Healer of our Every Ill, we pray for those in need of healing in body, mind or spirit...

Mighty Counselor, we pray for our own soul, body and mind...

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

**MANY: AMEN**

#### SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

ONE: The peace of Christ be with you all.

**MANY: And also with you.**

ONE: Let us share a sign of God's peace with one another.

#### OFFERING

*A Time for Advent*

Stewart Harris

#### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

#### PRAYER JESUS TAUGHT US

ONE: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us,

**MANY: 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.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,**

**now and forever. AMEN**

WELCOME TO THE TABLE

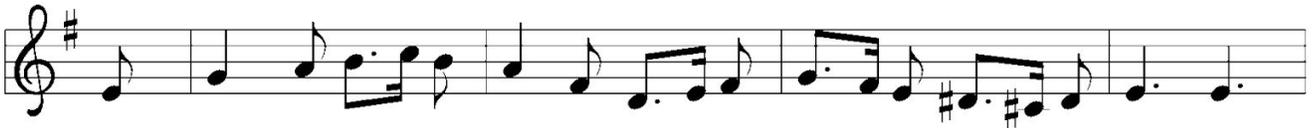
COMMUNION MUSIC

*What Feast of Love*

ELW 487



- 1 What feast of love is of - fered here, what ban - quet come from heav - en?
- 2 What light of truth is of - fered here, what cov - e - nant from heav - en?
- 3 What wine of love is of - fered here, what crim - son drink from heav - en?



What food of ev - er - last - ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en?  
What hope of ev - er - last - ing life, what won - drous word is giv - en?  
What stream of ev - er - last - ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en.  
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav - en.  
This, this is Christ the king, the sweet - est wine of heav - en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!  
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv - en!  
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv - en!

1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!  
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!  
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!  
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.

Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.  
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.

Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

*Refrain*

Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

BENEDICTION

ONE: Go from here with confidence and hope.  
Strengthen those who are tired and exhausted;  
comfort those who are anxious and fearful.

Say to them all:

“Be strong, and do not fear!

For God is coming—

Indeed, God is already here!

**MANY: AMEN.**

DISMISSAL

P: Go in Peace, seeing Christ in our midst.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Acknowledgements:

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The Advent Candle Wreath Lighting is by Martha Spong, <https://marthaspong.com/2016/11/23/advent-wreath-lighting-nl-3/>, accessed October 2020.

ELW 250 *Blessed Be the God of Israel*

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W&P 36 *Emmanuel*

Text and music by Bob McGee.

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ELW 248 *People, Look East*

Text by Eleanor Farjeon, French carol BESANÇON.

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ELW 487 *What Feast of Love*

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ELW 264 *Prepare the Royal Highway*

Text by Frans Mikael Franzén, French carol,

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The Benediction is from <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/11/benediction-isaiah-35-3-4.html> accessed November 24, 2020.

**Serving today:**

*Preacher & Guitarist*

*Pianist*

*Lectors*

*Vocalists*

*Worship Assistants*

*Zoom & Livestream Coordinators*

Rev. Kjell M. Ferris

Anne Phillips

Lisa Novak, Angela and Roger Birnbaum,

Don Davidson, David Kleppe

Iris Ferris, Nick Bonow,

Stefanie Fiser Kleven, Inger Trooien

Eleanor Ferris, Heidi Ferris

Stefanie Fiser Kleven, Scott Rusten,

Bob Samuelson & Jason Tofteland



**PEACE**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH