

ORDER OF SERVICE
19 December 2021
Advent 4

GATHER			
Call to Worship			Rev Allan Smith
Hymn/Song	Once in Royal David's City	TIS 312	
Candle Lighting			Rev Allan Smith
Children's Story			Selena /Emily
Praise Time (10min)	Above All How Great is Our God (The Splendor of the King)	SCE 611/ CCLI# 2672885 CCLI# 4348399	
Welcome & Visitors candles, Celebrations, Green Cards			Rev Allan Smith
Prayer: Adoration, Confession, Declaration of Forgiveness			Rev Allan Smith
Passing the Peace			Rev Allan Smith
Song	Lord Jesus Christ (Living Lord)	TIS 526/CCLI#40241	
HEAR THE WORD			
Bible Readings	Micah 5: 2-5a; Hebrews 10: 5-10; Luke 1: 39-55		Annette Mison
Message	<i>Learning to Sing God's Song</i>		Rev Allan Smith
Song (Optional)	Tell Out My Soul	TIS 161/CCLI#27051	
RESPOND			
Affirmation of Faith	Advent Creed		
Offering Dedication			Rev Allan Smith
Notices & Concerns of the Church			Rev Allan Smith
Prayers of the People			Rev Allan Smith
Communion Song	We Gather at Your Table	Sheet Music	
Communion	Rev Allan Smith & Elders		
Song (after Communion)	Lord I Lift Your Name on High	SCE 330/ P&W 736 /CCLI#117947	
BLESS			
Mission/Benediction			Rev Allan Smith
Benediction/Going Out Song	Lord I Lift Your Name on High	SCE 330/ P&W 736 /CCLI#117947	

Preaching	Rev Allan Smith
Worship Introduction	Rev Allan Smith
Notices of the Church & Prayers of the People	Rev Allan Smith
Bible Reader	Annette Mison
Song Selector	Ros Bambrick
Piano	Nicky Rippingale
Backup Singers	
Additional Music	
Sound System	Nathan Rippingale
Data Operator	Harry Rippingale
Power Point Producer	Nathan Rippingale
Offering Collectors	-
Communion Bread	-

Blessed is the kingdom of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

CALL TO WORSHIP

We come to glorify God,
to rejoice in the One who saves us.
**God comes, so we might believe,
so we might be blessed.**
Our hearts leap for joy!
For God is coming to us in a child.
**God comes for those who hunger for hope,
for those who thirst for grace.**
Holy is the One who comes in God's name,
who fulfills every promise of God.
**God comes to walk with those who follow in faith,
to bring peace to a shattered world.**

Let us worship God.

SONG [Once in Royal David's City](#)

CANDLE LIGHTING

~~PRAYER OF INVOCATION~~

SONGS [Above All](#)

[How Great is Our God \(The Splendor of the King\)](#)

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Holy God, scattering the proud,
you look with favour on those the world ignores.
For you, we wait for the One who will feed us;
for you, we wait for the One who stands with us in our loneliness and pain.
For you, we wait.

Jesus Christ, born in a backwater town:
in you, God fills the hunger of our hearts;
in you, God lifts us from our hopelessness;
in you, all the promises come true.
For you, we wait.

Holy Spirit, Hallower of God's people:
from you comes faith, so we might believe;
from you comes belief, so we might be blessed;
from you come all blessings, so we might give them away.
For you, we wait.

God in Community, Holy in One,
for you, we wait. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us we pray. Cast out our sin and enter in, Be born in us today.

O Holy God, Spirit and Son, we confess that we do not always sing your praises. We do not remember your call to the poor and hungry as a challenge to be met in joyful giving, but we grumble and stress about how to meet the needs of so many. We allow ourselves to be overwhelmed, to become negative about the world and its people, and at times, we throw up our hands in the air, ready to give up.

Call us out of our comfort zone, O God, and to remember that you came to us, Word Incarnate, Living Flesh, and lived as we do, and that You call us into a new way of life. Remind us that we are important, we are loved, and we have a purpose in you, and that even the little we do makes a difference for your reign, your kingdom on earth. Help us to remember that You became like us, to live and die for us, and that you live again, and are coming into our lives again in a new way.

In Your name, Emmanuel, Jesus, God With Us, The One Who Saves, we pray. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

God passes the heirloom of mercy down
from generation to generation, always loving,
always forgiving, always calling us to new life.
**As we open our hearts to God, we are filled
with the joy that was sung at the Birth,
with the Hope that walked among us,
with the Grace which is always with us.
Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.**

SONG [Lord Jesus Christ \(Living Lord\)](#)

BIBLE READINGS

[Micah 5:2-5a](#)

[Hebrews 10:5-10](#)

[Luke 1:39-55](#)

SERMON [Learning to sing God's song](#)

SONG [Tell Out My Soul](#)

OFFERING

Compassionate God, we bring an offering, symbols of our daily living, so that those whose food and drink have been tears may be filled with good things; the scorned given self-esteem; and the lowly lifted up; in Jesus' name. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord God, ruler of the universe, you promised to come among the people of Micah's time and they trembled in fear. They knew they had fallen short of your expectations and they were afraid. This morning we await the second coming of your son, Jesus. We know that through his gift of salvation we have nothing to fear. Help us to live as witnesses to your loving grace. (Micah 5:2-5a)

Mighty One, merciful creator of all generations. You bring down the haughty and raise up the lowly. You fill the hungry and make the full-bellied people question their worthiness. All people on this earth belong to you. Help us to live together in peace. Help us to regard each other with respect. Help us to acknowledge that we are all one in you. (Luke 1:47-55)

Holy God, you have called each of us by name. Yet, each day we stray from your will for our lives. Greed and Jealousy claim us as their workers. Violence rules in households and in nations. Addiction overcomes our ability to resist. Guide us by your grace to follow your loving commandments. (Hebrews 10:5-10)

Blessed Lord God, today and always bless those who travel through this life seeking shelter, healing and wholeness. We especially lift in prayer today...

This morning, we pray especially for...

Greet them with your joy and bring them into your loving embrace. Fulfil your will for their lives. (Luke 1:39-45)

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

COMMUNION SONG [We Gather at Your Table](#)

SONG [Lord I Lift Your Name on High](#)

WORD OF MISSION AND BENEDICTION

Go now, with your hope in God's mercy
for all God has promised you will be fulfilled.
Trust God's strength for your safety,
walk in the ways of peace,
and be ready to greet the coming Lord.

And may the grace...

ADVENT CREED

We believe in God the Father, creator of heaven and earth.
The one who is full of patience,
who is not afraid of silence,
who does not need to fill each moment with activity and noise.
The one who is beyond bluster and flurry,
and who does not jostle for attention.

We believe in God the Son, Saviour of creation,
who slipped into Bethlehem one night, mostly unnoticed,
who lived thirty years without headlines or hurry,
who frequently took time alone with his patient Father,
who waited for the right time to become the suffering servant,
who stood quietly before the noise of his accusers,
whose silence overpowered their words,
who died, then rose again on a quiet Sunday morning.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens, empowers, renews and refreshes,
sometimes arriving with obvious power,
sometimes with the quiet breath of a whisper.

We believe in one God
who patiently waits for us,
and who longs for us to do the same.

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HOLY COMMUNION: Advent 4 Year C

It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God,
for you are coming to restore us and save us,
and your mercy embraces the faithful in each generation.

In ancient days you founded the earth
and promised mercy to Abraham and his offspring forever.
Through the law you provided a way of repentance
and through your prophets you called for justice and peace.

Now you come to us in your child, Jesus Christ,
at whose name even unborn babies rejoice.
In him we have seen your promised ruler
who will establish the reign of peace,
pulling tyrants from thrones
and lifting up the downtrodden,
filling the hungry with good things
and sending the greedy away empty.

Though enemies mocked him, scorned him and killed him,
by your strength you restored him to life,
and through his bodily offering
you sanctified your people once and for all.

And so we praise you...

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

WORD OF MISSION AND BENEDICTION