



Grace Lutheran Church Redcliffe
Service Order For 19th December,
Fourth Sunday of Advent



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

LORD God, loving Father:
You visited Your servants with news
of the world's redemption in the coming Your Son.
Fill us with the Holy Spirit of love
that our hearts leap with joy,
our mouths sing songs of praise,
and we announce glad tidings of peace;
in Jesus' name. Amen

OPENING SENTENCE: Luke 1:46-48

*With all my heart I praise the Lord,
and I am glad because of God my Saviour.
He cares for me, His humble servant.*

**With all my heart I praise the Lord,
and I am glad because of God my Saviour.
He cares for me, His humble servant.**

INVOCATION

*In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.*

THE CANDLES OF ADVENT
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: LOVE

Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent The fourth candle of Advent is the Candle of Love. Its light is meant to remind us of the love that God has for us.

Jesus shows us God's perfect love. He is God's love in human form. The bible says that "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."

Love is patient, love is kind and envies no one. Love is never boastful or conceited, rude or selfish. Love is not quick to take offense, it keeps no records of wrongs, it does not gloat over other people's troubles, but rejoices in the right, the good, and the true. There is nothing that love cannot face, there is no limit to its faith, to its hope, to its endurance. Love never ends.

Let us pray:

Loving God, we thank You for your gift of love - shown to us perfectly in Jesus Christ our Lord. Help us prepare our hearts to receive Him. Bless our worship. Help us to live our lives filling the world with your love. We ask this in the name of the one born in Bethlehem. Amen

We sing the song “The Candle of Love” as we light this candle today to remind us of how God's perfect love is found in Jesus

The Candle of Love

Tune LHS 454: Hanover

**The candle of love tells what we are worth:
God loves us so much, God came to the earth!
An angel brought news of a child who would be
the one who would save us and set us all free.**

**O measureless Might, unchangeable Love,
whom angels delight to worship above!
Your ransomed creation, with glory ablaze,
in true adoration shall sing to Your praise!**

CONFESSION

*Let us draw near to God our Father with a true heart to confess our sins,
and ask Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.*

Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor helpless sinner, confess to You all my sins, and repent of all the evil I have done. I have deeply displeased You and deserve Your punishment in time and in eternity. But I am sorry for my sins, and I ask You, for the sake of the holy innocent sufferings and death of Your dear Son Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me. Amen.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us, and has given His only Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He has given the right to become children of God, and has given them His Holy Spirit. Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all. Amen.

INTROIT: Luke 1:47-55

(Sung – tune LHS 903) (click [here](#))

**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.**

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.

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His might! Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight, the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**

**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!**

**All glory to the Father and the Son, and to the Spirit, ever Three in One:
as was and is, and ever more shall be world without end for all eternity.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray for God to be with us.

[silence]

*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.

BIBLE READING

FIRST READING: Micah 5:2-5a The shepherd king to be born in Bethlehem

² 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. ³ 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. ⁴ 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; ⁵ and He shall be the one of peace.

After the reading

This is the Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5-10 Christ came to do God's will

⁵ Therefore, when Christ came into the world, He said: 'Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a body You prepared for Me; ⁶ with burnt offerings and sin offerings You were not pleased. ⁷ Then I said, "Here I am – it is written about Me in the scroll – I have come to do Your will, My God.'" ⁸ First He said, 'Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings You did not desire, nor were You pleased with them' – though they were offered in accordance with the law. ⁹ Then He said, 'Here I am, I have come to do Your will.' He sets aside the first to establish the second. ¹⁰ And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

After the reading

This is the Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE

Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Blessed are those who believe
that there would be a fulfilment
of what was spoken by the LORD.*

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-45 Mary visits Elizabeth

Before the reading

Glory be to You, O LORD.

³⁹ In those days Mary arose and quickly went into the hill country, to a city of Judah, ⁴⁰ and entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² She spoke out with a loud voice, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ Indeed, as soon as the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a completion to those things which were told her by the Lord."

After the reading

This is the gospel of the LORD.

Praise be to You, O Christ.

Thank you, Lord Jesus,
for coming to be born of Mary.
Help us to rejoice that you became a human being.

Amen.

AT 639: Magnificat (click [here](#))

**My soul proclaims Your greatness, O God,
and my spirit rejoices in You. You have looked with love
on Your servant here and blessed me all my life through.**

**Great and mighty are You, O Holy One,
strong is Your kindness evermore. How You favour
the weak and lowly one, humbling the proud of heart.**

**You have cast the mighty down from their thrones
and uplifted the humble of heart. You have filled the hungry
with wondrous things, and left the wealthy no part.**

**Great and mighty are You, O Faithful One,
strong is Your Justice, strong Your love.
As You promised to Sarah and Abraham, kindness for evermore.**

**My soul proclaims Your greatness, O God,
and my spirit rejoices in You. You have looked with love
on Your servant here and blessed me all my life through.**

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SERMON

At this point you may wish to Listen to Sermon, or Read and Discuss the Sermon
The Sermon online may be different to the manuscript.
For LCA Worship Resources (click [here](#))

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one LORD, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father; through Him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and His kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the LORD, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

Come, Thou long expected Jesus (click [here](#))

**Come, Thou long expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art;
dear Desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.**

**Come to earth to taste our sadness, He whose glories knew no end.
By His life He brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;
this the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.**

**Born Thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a King,
born to reign in us for ever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by Thine all-sufficient merit raise us to Thy glorious throne.**

Charles Wesley, 1744

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Our Lord remembers the promises he makes to his people, and does great things for those who call on his name. Let us pray to our Father in heaven, confident that he will hear our prayers and act in his loving mercy.

Almighty and eternal God, we thank you for the many blessings you have given us, although we have not deserved them. Especially we thank you for your saving word and the holy sacraments. Keep the teaching of the gospel pure in your church throughout the world, and give us faithful pastors to preach your word with boldness and power. Help your church to invest its time and resources in building the true temple- your people. Send out labourers into your harvest and bring to faith those who do not yet know you. Have mercy on the enemies of your church, so that they may repent and live. Protect your church in all trouble, and defend it against all danger.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Show your mercy to all the nations of the world. Bless our land and the people who live in it. Help those in government and positions of responsibility to maintain honesty and truth, justice and peace. Direct all schools and places of learning, so that students everywhere may learn truth and wisdom.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Watch over and protect all expecting mothers and fathers. Comfort those parents who have lost children and those couples who want a child but have not been able to have one. Bless the work of adoption agencies and orphanages who care for children without parents and help them find loving homes.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Graciously protect us from war and disease, famine, political instability and natural disasters. Watch over those who travel, especially those visiting family and friends at this time. Support all people in their proper vocation, and help all those who are unemployed or underemployed. Bless our arts and culture, our science and technology. Help those who are sick and in need. And comfort those who are lonely and in trouble.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Just as Mary heard your word, trusted you, and bore the fruit of your Spirit, lead us to hear your word and trust you, so that we may live fruitful lives, filled with the joy of your Holy Spirit. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

THE BLESSING

Let us bless the LORD.
God be praised forevermore.
*My soul magnifies the LORD,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.*
The LORD bless us and keep us.
The LORD make His face shine on us and be gracious to us.
The LORD look upon us with favour, and give us peace.
Amen!

GROWING FAITH AT HOME BLESSING

May God make you strong and new.
*May His face smile upon you
and His kindness save you.*
May God make you strong and new.
**May His face smile upon you
and His kindness save you.**

WORDS OF SENDING

You have been made holy through Jesus Christ.
Go in peace.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

LHS 16: Hail to the Lord's Anointed (click [here](#))

**Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son;
hail, in the time appointed, His reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, to let the captive free,
and take away transgression, and rule in equity.**

**He comes with help and mercy to those who suffer wrong,
to raise the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong,
to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,
whose souls condemned and dying were precious in His sight.**

**He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth,
and love, joy, hope, like flowers, spring in His path to birth;
before Him on the mountains shall peace the herald, go,
and righteousness in fountains from hill to valley flow.**

**Kings shall bow down before Him, and gold and incense bring;
all nations shall adore Him, His praise all people sing;
to Him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend;
His kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.**

**O'er every foe victorious, He on His throne shall rest,
from age to age more glorious, all blessing and all-blest.**

**The tide of time shall never His covenant remove;
His name shall stand for ever, that name to us is Love.**

James Montgomery (1771-1854)

HYMNS AND SONGS

First reading: Micah 5:2-5a

LHS

42 Earth has many a noble city* G4

AT

222 There'll be peace

Second reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

LHS

4 Once He came in blessing* G4

10 O how shall I receive Thee* G3

20 O Jesus Christ, all praise to Thee* G4

26 Praise God the Lord, ye sons of men G4

82 Jesus, in Thy dying woes (Pt 6) G5

AT

345 Nothing but the blood

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45(46-55)

LHS

17 Come, Thou long-expected Jesus G6

490 O Son of God, we wait for Thee* G3

903 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord G7

AT

260 Magnificat (My soul is praising the Lord) G7