



# Church Alive Zoom and at Home Worship Sheet

## Advent 4 – 20<sup>th</sup> December 2020



*(For the Zoom service:*

*Welcome to Zoom Church Alive.*

*If you are able to, prepare a sacred space (i.e., on a small table) with the following items: A cross; a candle; stones; some bread and snacks, perhaps some fruit; something to drink, and a bowl of water (as a reminder of baptism).*

*We will meet at 11am and start the service at 11.05am. Please use MUTE on your computer at 11.05am for the service, especially wherever we are singing together, except in the sections where marked. If you'd like to say something at other times, please 'raise your hand' (you will find this in the Participants section) or type it in under 'chat' and it will appear on the screen. )*

*Mary has an encounter with a heavenly visitor who brings unsettling news. The conversation that follows launches Mary into life-changing decisions, which she accepts willingly.*

**Opening Song:** Cloth For The Cradle

<https://youtu.be/JvTKnTyTsCO>

**Opening Prayer:**

Dear friends in Christ, as we travel towards Bethlehem in this season of Advent, we come together in the midst of a busy season to take a breath; to slow down as we anticipate Jesus' coming into the world. We are invited for a time to breathe in together the life that God gives us. To listen for the beat of God's heart and the blessings and lessons this season brings to us. **Amen**

The candle for this fourth week of Advent is a candle of Love. Today the flame of this candle reminds us of the love that came to this world when Jesus was born and his presence with us now'

*If you are able, and it is safe to do so, you might like to light your candle at this point as well and hold up your candle as we say our prayer together.*

**All: Lord, we light this candle,  
to remind us that you are the light of the world.  
As we gather together in spirit,  
make our voices ready to sing your praise;  
our hearts open to receive your love  
and our minds alive to your Spirit.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**



**We seek God's healing and forgiveness:**

Jesus the light of the world comes to dispel the shadows of our hearts. Therefore, in the light of Christ let us confess our sins. *Silence is kept for a time.*

Lord Jesus, for the times when our courage fails us: **forgive us and help us.**

For the times when we are too cynical to believe... **forgive us and help us.**

For the times when we are too distracted... **forgive us and help us.**

Help us to grow in courage, faith and focus. **Amen.**

## **We hear words assuring us of God's forgiveness**

May almighty God have mercy on *us*, forgive *us our* sins,  
and bring *us* to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

## **Bible Reading Luke 1:26-38 The Birth of Jesus Foretold – New Revised Standard Version**

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' <sup>29</sup> But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. <sup>31</sup> And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup> He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' <sup>34</sup> Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' <sup>35</sup> The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup> And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God.' <sup>38</sup> Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

## **On Zoom - Talk**

**At Home - please use the separate Resources sheet.**

## **A Call to the Love Feast (Agape meal)**

Out of darkness came light;

**All: And the power of God was revealed**

Out of the dust came life;

**All: And the image of God was revealed**

Out of justice came freedom;

**All: And the wisdom of God was revealed**

And God looked at the creation,

**All: And behold, it was very good.**

**Prayer of Adoration** *which means to regard with the utmost esteem, love, and respect*

**All: I will keep on thanking God**

**with constant words of prayer.**

**I will glory in the living God:**

**the humble will hear and be glad.**

## **Giving Thanks For The Week**

You are invited to call out single words or brief phrases of thanks for something that happened during the week. After each one a simple response may be used **Generous God, we thank you.**

## Introduction to sharing the feast

'O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are they who take refuge in him' *Psalm 34:8*.

We are all invited to these common tables to share in an Agape Feast. At these tables we come as brothers and sisters in the Holy Family of God. Taste and see that God is good.

*The bread, drinks and snacks are passed one to another if there is more than one of you; take it in turns to serve each other. If you are on your own, then as you eat and drink, know that you are sharing with us all.*

*After we have eaten and drunk something, we offer this prayer of thanks*

**All: As we have shared this bread,  
we thank you, God, for our daily bread;  
for the food which delights and nourishes us.  
We thank you, too, for drink to quench our thirst  
and for the Living Water with which you surprise  
and enrich and transform our lives.  
We give thanks for this feast at which we can share,  
a foretaste of the heavenly banquet. Amen**

## Prayers

*(On zoom - We will play a very short piece of music, during which you can add your prayers to the chat and then they will be included in the prayer time).*

*Today we might particularly pray for:*

*People's minds to be open to your message at this time.*

*All who minister in your name.*

*All those who have been or are affected by the COVID-19 virus; those suffering illness, those providing care and treatment, those seeking long-term solutions.*

*For the leaders of the nations as they deal with balancing health and economic pressures which will affect us all.*

*Our friends and families, especially those who will be apart at this time*

*Those we know who are sick or who need our prayers at this time.*

*All who have recently died and the families and friends that mourn them*

**All: Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen**

**All: 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 for ever.  
Amen.**

**Song:** Tell Out My Soul

<https://youtu.be/H-sSWPmKVbw>

## **Sending Out Prayer and Blessing**

**Lord God, when you call us;  
when we can help someone:  
when you offer us new life:  
help us to say yes.**

*And the blessing...*

**Amen.**

## **The Peace**

Go in the light and peace of Christ

**Thanks be to God**



*(On zoom - We share the peace with each other using sign language*

***Fellowship time – unmute. We will go around the group so that everyone has a chance to let us know how they are and any news they want to share).***