



St Ives Uniting Church

24 December 2023

Advent 4

Lighting the Advent Candles

Response: 265 O come, O come Emmanuel (4 verses)

Welcome and prayer

Hymn: 161 Tell out, my soul!

Prayers of confession

Assurance of forgiveness

Hear Christ's word of grace "Your sins are forgiven"

Thanks be to God.

Notices

Lawrence Peak

Bible readings

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Caroline Turner

After the king was settled in his palace and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ² he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent."

³ Nathan replied to the king, "Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the Lord is with you."

⁴ But that night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, saying:

⁵ "Go and tell my servant David, 'This is what the Lord says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in? ⁶ I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. ⁷ Wherever I have

moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”

⁸ “Now then, tell my servant David, ‘This is what the Lord Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. ⁹ I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. ¹⁰ And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning ¹¹ and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.

“The Lord declares to you that the Lord himself will establish a house for you:

¹⁶ Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.”

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Luke 1:26-38

David Turner

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary.

²⁸ The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

³⁴ “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

³⁵ The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For no word from God will ever fail.”

³⁸ “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Hymn: What Child is this?

Sermon: Building God’s house

Hymn: 446 Glorious things of you are spoken

Offering

Offering response: 768 Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Prayers of the people and the Lord’s prayer

Lawrence Peak

Hymn: 309 Angels from the realms of glory

Benediction

Threefold Amen

Postlude

Organist

John Hughes

