

December 22, 2024  
"Advent Voices"  
Fourth Sunday of Advent



*Mary*

*Elizabeth* © Lauren Wright Pittman

*and*

**To join worship this morning via zoom app, click this link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83928727469?pwd=WFhzWkJlFQjBhTlp4UEUvdWRhS2lKdz09>

(if you are asked for a password, it is: 890967). **To dial in by phone** call 1 312 626 6799. When prompted, enter **839 2872 7469#**. Next, you will be prompted to enter your participant ID or to push #; **simply push # again.**

**Music will be displayed on the screen during the service.**

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**Introit:** “The Only Son from Heaven” J.S. Bach

**Gathering Words:** from “The Showings: Uncovering the Face of the Feminine in *Revelations of Divine Love*,” trans. Mirabai Starr

**Prayer of Confession**

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

**Hymn 121:** “All Earth Is Waiting”

**Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle**

**Time with Children**

**Storytelling**

**Scripture:** Luke 1:5-25

**Chant:** “Wait for Our God,” from Taizé

**Scripture:** Luke 1:26-38

**Poem** “a song of mary” by Lucille Clifton

**Solo** “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

**Scripture:** Luke 1:39-56

**Hymn 123** Mary, Woman of the Promise

**Poem** “mary’s dream” by Lucille Clifton

**Scripture:** Luke 1:47-55

**Chant** “Magnificat,” from Taizé

**Scripture:** Luke 1:56-66

**Poem** “john” by Lucille Clifton

**Anthem:** “Unexpected and Mysterious”

**Prayers of the People**

Please share your prayer requests in the chat and we will pray with you.

**Lord’s Prayer**

A commonly used form is printed below. You are welcome to use the version most meaningful to you.

**Our God, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come.  
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory for ever. Amen.**

### **Offering**

We invite your financial gifts to support our ministries within and beyond First Church. December's special offering is shared between the Mission at San Lucas Tolimán in Guatemala and the UCC Christmas fund. Give electronically at our website: [www.firstchurchmn.org](http://www.firstchurchmn.org); click on the "Support Us" link. You can also give by texting 612-255-4109: "\$(amount) Special" (for the monthly offering) or "\$(amount) General Fund. If you give by check, please make it out to First Church with "Christmas" in the memo line.

**Offertory:** "Nunc Dimittis" by Rene Clausen

**Offertory Response:** "Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines"

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Reception of New Members**

**Hymn:** "The Bells of Norwich"

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

**Thanks to those who serve in the following roles today:**

**Valet:** Robert Payne

**Readers:** Bill Lindberg, Robert Payne, Paul Snyder, Jill Stebbins

**Ushers:** Mike Rotterdam, Missy Rotterdam, Kris Felbeck

**Advent Candlelighters:** Mitch and Linden

**Tech Support:** Hikaru Peterson, Jeff Peterson, Soren Peterson

**Coffee Hour:** Community Kitchen

## Coming up this week

### Sunday, December 22

9:30a: Coffee hour

10a: Worship / Avent Voices (hybrid)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83928727469?pwd=WFhzWkJFQjBhTlp4UEUvdWRhS2lKdz09>

11:15a: Coffee hour (hybrid—stay on Zoom call)

11:30a: All Ages cookies / carols

### Monday, Dec. 23

9:30a: SE Playgroup

### Tuesday, Dec 24

4p: Cocoa / cookies / fellowship

5p: Christmas Eve service

### Thursday, December 26

9:30a: SE Playgroup

### Sunday, December 29

9:30a: Coffee hour

10a: Worship / (hybrid)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83928727469?pwd=WFhzWkJFQjBhTlp4UEUvdWRhS2lKdz09>

11:15a: Coffee hour (hybrid—stay on Zoom call)

**Our Christmas Eve service** starts at 4p with fellowship / cookies / cocoa. At 5p we will hold our candlelight worship service. All are welcome!

**Linda Lincoln** is organizing our Christmas Eve cocoa hour this year. She is looking for donations of easily handled treats (that do not need utensils). Please bring your donations to church. There will be a cooler outside the 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. entrance—please first ring the doorbell to see if anyone is around to accept your donations. Also, please mark your treats to assist those with nut-free / gluten-free / vegan diets.

**From Moderator Linda Valerian**, “It’s that time of year when we in the First Church family show our deep appreciation for our staff by giving generously to a Holiday Fund to be shared by Jane, Byron, Sarah, and Brad. You can give checks or cash directly to me or place an envelope in the moderator’s mailbox in the church office. Checks should be made out First

Church with 'Staff' in the memo line. Thank you to our wonderful staff, and to all of you for your generosity!"

**Staff Notes:** Sarah Tittle will be out of the office on Thursday, December 26.

**The Election Support Group is continuing!** While the 2024 election is over, there is much to process and lots of work to do in the aftermath. Come and join our group to celebrate, to mourn, to plan for the future, and, most importantly, to be in community. All are welcome. Join us in the parlor or on Zoom during 2nd Hour on Sunday, January 5 continue discussing and reflecting on December's topic: This election is over, but our country is not. What are we called or compelled to do next? If you have any questions, please contact Sarah Almén ([s\\_almen@hotmail.com](mailto:s_almen@hotmail.com) or 512-809-9788).