

**Order of Service – December 18, 2016 – The Lord’s Supper
Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Music: Ann VanDamme

Preacher: Pastor Bart

Good morning and welcome to our service.

If you need increased volume for the service, please see one of our ushers for an audio headset.

If you are visiting St. Peter’s today, please tell us about yourself by filling out one of the brochures in the seat pocket in front of you and leave it in the offering tray.

For the parents, if you need to use a Cry Room for your children you are welcome to use the walkway area. The television there displays our service.

Wednesday Morning Prayer Group meets at 10:00 am here in the walkway.

“The Power of a Whisper” Study will continue in the New Year at the church with Pastor Bart.

The Acts Bible study led by Bob Peters will continue on January 12, 2017 here at St. Peter’s. New people are welcome to attend.

Christmas Eve Services will be at 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm and 10:00 pm and there will be a Christmas day service lead by Pastor Paul Knudtson at 10:00 am.

Slovakia Mission is tentatively scheduled for August 16-28, 2017. Running an ESL VBS program for children/youth, with the help of Slovak translators. Possibly doing an adult women's book study. Possibly prayer ministry. Staying with billets or in a Bible school dorm. Estimated cost including flights, food and accommodation: \$2500.00 per person.

Interested in Hosting a small Group Study. Talk to Pastor Bart.

Interested in Teaching Sunday School. Talk to Pastor Bart.

Prelude: Cold December Flies Away

LBW 53

Cold December flies away at the rose red splendor.
April's crowning glory breaks while the whole world wonders
At the holy unseen power of the tree which bears the flower.
On the blessed tree blooms the reddest flower, On the tree
blooms the rose here in love's own garden, full and strong in glory.

In the hopeless time of sin shadows deep had fallen.
All the world lay under death, eyes were closed in sleeping.
But when all seemed lost in night, came the sun whose golden light
Brings unending joy, brings the endless joy of our hope,
Highest hope of our hope's bright dawning, Son beloved of heaven.

Now the bud has come to bloom and the world awakens.
In the lily's purest flower dwells a wondrous fragrance.
And it spreads to all the earth from the moment of its birth;

And its beauty lives. In the flower it lives, in the flower and it spreads
In its heavenly brightness, sweet perfume delightful.

Now we light a candle here, as we wait for Jesus,
Darkness ends, salvation comes, from-God, who truly sees us.
With this light our prayers arise. At midnight the watchman cries,
That the Bridegroom comes, oh our Saviour comes;
Let us wake. He's the Light, that our God did send us,
Jesus Christ, Messiah

Greeting and Announcements

Bringing in the Light and Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn: Silent Night, Holy Night!

LBW 65

Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from your holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord at your birth.

Traditional Advent Prayer

Leader: O Lord Jesus, Christ, You are God's Wisdom coming from the mouth of the Most High God. You fill all creation, and with strength, order all things.

***Congregation:* Come be our wisdom and teach us the way of prudence.**

L: O Lord of Might and Ruler of the House of Israel. You appeared to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the law on Mt. Sinai.

C: **Come with an outstretched arm and rescue us.**

L: O Root of Jesse, you stand as an emblem before all people. In front of you the rulers of the world are struck silent. To you all the nations will bend their knees and acknowledge that you are Lord.

C: Come quickly and deliver us.

L: O Key of David, and Scepter of the House of Israel. You open and no one can close, you close and no one can open.

C: Come and redeem all prisoners who are in darkness and the shadow of death.

L: O Dawning Light, Splendour of God's Everlasting Brilliance.

C: Come bring light, understanding and hope to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death.

L: O King of all the nations, ruler that they long for, Cornerstone, uniting all people.

C: Come and save us all, for you created us, forming us out of clay.

L: O Emmanuel, God with us. Our King and Lawgiver, Anointed of the Nations and their Saviour.

C: Come and save us O Lord Our God.

Prayer of the Day

All: Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the hindrance of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Children's Message

Dianne Dunse

Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 7:10-17

10 Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, 11 Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. 12 But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. 13 Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? 14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. 15 He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. 16 For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted. 17 The Lord will bring on you and on your people and on your ancestral house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria."

Psalm 8

1 O Lord, our Sovereign,
 how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.
2 Out of the mouths of babes and infants
you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,
 to silence the enemy and the avenger.
3 When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
 the moon and the stars that you have established;

4 what are human beings that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?
5 Yet you have made them a little lower than God,
and crowned them with glory and honor.
6 You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet,
7 all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,
8 the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.
9 O Lord, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Epistle Lesson Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, 2 which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, 3 the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh 4 and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, 5 through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, 6 including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, 7 To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the Word of the Lord

Gospel Matthew 1:18-25

18 Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. 20 But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." 22 All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 23 "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." 24 When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, 25 but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Sermon

Song: Twas In The Moon Of Winter Time

'Twas in the moon of wintertime when all the birds had fled
That God, the Lord of all the earth, Sent angel choirs instead;
Before their light the stars grew dim and wondering hunters heard the hymn,
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, Glory be to God on high.

The earliest moon of wintertime Is not so round and fair.
As was the ring of glory Around the infant there're.

And when the shepherds then drew near. The Angelo voices rang out clear:
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, Glory be to God on high.

O children of the forest free, the Angels song is true.
The holy Child of earth and heaven is born today for you.
Come kneel before the radiant boy who brings you beauty peace and joy.
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, Glory be to God on high.

Response to the Word (WOV p. 49)

Leader: In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

All: We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit

Leader: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of the saints
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen

Leader: Build yourselves up on your most holy faith.

All: Pray in the Holy Spirit.

Leader: Keep yourselves in the love of God.

All: Look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Leader: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

All: Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!

Leader: God has given us the ministry of reconciliation.
Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

Confession p. 56

Sharing of God's Peace

Offering

Offertory Hymn: Now Shine A Thousand Candles Bright

Now shine a thousand candles bright
Upon the world's dark sphere
The deep blue sky is set alight
As myriad flames appear

In suburb ghetto farm and town
They spread the news abroad
That Jesus Christ is born tonight
Our Savior and our God

O star that shone o'er Bethlehem
Now let your kindly light
With tranquil hope and glory shine
In ev'ry home tonight

To ev'ry dark and anguished heart
Send down your ray divine
And may the light of God's own love
Like Christmas candles shine

Offertory Prayer

(p. 67 LBW)

All: Merciful Father,

We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, our time,
and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who
offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers for the Family of God

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

Distribution

Hymns during distribution

I Wonder As I Wander

WOV 642

I wonder as I wander out under the sky
How Jesus the Saviour did come for to die
For poor on'ry people like you and like I;
I wonder as I wander out under the sky

When Mary birthed Jesus 'twas in a cow's stall
With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all
But high from God's heaven, a star's light did fall
And the promise of ages it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing
A star in the sky or a bird on the wing
Or all of God's Angels in heaven to sing

He surely could have it, 'cause he was the King

I wonder as I wander out under the sky
How Jesus the Saviour did come for to die
For poor on'ry people like you and like I;
I wonder as I wander out under the sky

What Feast of Love

WOV 701

What feast of love is offered here
What banquet come from heaven?
What food of everlasting life
What gracious gift is given?
This, this is Christ the King
The bread come down from heaven
Oh taste and see and sing!
How sweet the manna given!

What light of truth is offered here
What covenant from heaven?
What hope of everlasting life
What wondrous word is given?
This, this is Christ the King
The sun come down from heaven
Oh see and hear and sing!
The Word of God is given!

What wine of love is offered here
What holy drink from heaven?
What stream of everlasting life
What precious blood is given?
This, this is Christ the King
The sweetest wine of heaven
Oh taste and see and sing!
The Son of God is given!

Blessing

Closing Prayer

Benediction

Postlude: Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful

LBW 45

Oh, come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant!
Oh, come ye, Oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him
Born the King of angels:

(Chorus)

Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him,

Oh, come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

The highest, most holy,
Light of light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father
Now in flesh appearing!
Chorus

Sing choirs of angels
Sing in exultation
Sing, all ye citizens
of heav'n above!
Glory to God
In the highest:
Chorus

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing:
Chorus