

Fourth Sunday of Advent



The Lihu'e Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hawai'i

Ka Hale Pule 'O Na Lahui Apau . . .

Church Of All Peoples . . .

. . . Hele Pu Ma'ou me Iesu Kristo

December 20, 2020

The Lihue Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hawaii
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Prayer Concerns

Please remember these people in your prayers during the week: Joe Morgan, Zosimo and Virginia Austria, Karen Kinoshita, Jake Whisenhunt, Rick Rentz, Stan Weeks, Judy Hoffman, Norman Dibble, Marie Johnson, Kazue Zaima, Virginia Hines-Aflague, John Mattek, Girald II (Bobby Girald's son), Kristie Schmid (Tony's sister), Lolli Hagen, Abraham Torres, Sr., Kristy Kahananui, Sonny Koerte, Mallory Rodriguez, Steve Schantz, Peter Alisna, Tirzah Pope, John McIntyre, Pastor Matthew Weber, Joyce Anglemyer, Stephen Shioi, Peggy Hood, Jason Shimono, Richard Rasay, Nancy Nelson (formerly Mandell), Karen & Patrick Pavao, Edward Rasay, Karen Richards (friend of Nancy Mandell), Marcos Larson (Liedeke's son), Dora Jane Rowell, Franklin Parraga, Penny Parraga, Leticia Ancog (Kurt Javinar's sister), Yvonne Shinseki, Al Dressler (Larry's Father), Shirley Hallman (Denese Alcott's Mother), Mercy Ballesteros, Mike LaBerge, Anna Marie & Phil Croghan, Judy Carlson, Caroline Johnson, Sheila Belarmino, Ray Roderick, The Church Council, and leaders in the ELCA. If you have additional prayer requests, please let the church office know. "Ask it in my name . . ." Mahalo for your love.

Remembering Our Military

As we gather for worship, please remember those serving us in the military, and the families of our Hawai'i National Guard. These names have been given by loved ones and family members: Navy – TJ, Javinar, Kristian Matsumoto, Coast Guard - Brian Rodriguez, Navy - Kiana Alisna, Coast Guard - Ke'ale Renta Army - Jason Lumacad, Levi Fajardo: Air Force - Steven Javinar, Ikaika Fajardo, Army - Brandon Perkinson, Drew Cox, Tony Garton: National Guard - Benji MacKenzie, Eddie Resinto, Fred Casticimo, Philip Kamakea, Anthony Y. Torres, Master Sgt. If you know of someone you would like added to our prayer list, please advise the church office.

Introduction

"Rejoice always," begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. "All God's children got a robe," go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God's party.

Welcome to Our Guests

It is always a joy to share our faith and worship with people visiting from around the world. Please know your presence and participation in our service is most appreciated. At Lihue Lutheran we celebrate Holy Communion at every service. You are certainly welcome in joining us as our Lord comes to us in this holy meal.

Introduction

God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."

Overview

Those who hear and do

Who is God's family? Where is God's home? In the church we often speak of our home parish as a family. Many of us grew up thinking of the church building as God's house. But the readings for this day call us to anticipate that Emmanuel might understand kinship and home in different ways. As we approach Christmas, which in our culture is increasingly a celebration of hearth and home more than a public festival, the inclusiveness of God's promise rings out from these readings.

The temple often stood in the imagination of Israel as the "house of God," but in 1 Samuel God expresses reservations before the temple is even built. The promise made to David is not about the building. Instead of the expected places of wealth and power, God chooses to dwell in a *people* instead of a "house of cedar" (2 Sam. 7:2, 7).

So if God is dwelling in a people, who is included in *that* promise? Although no one disputes that Jesus is born of the "house of David," Luke's gospel stresses Mary's lowliness instead of her bloodlines, reminding us that Christ became flesh in the most unlikely circumstances. Later in Luke's gospel, when someone mentions his family to Jesus, he says his family includes all "who hear the word of God and do it" (8:21). In today's gospel we see Mary acting out that definition of family.

Theological reflection

Mary ponders Gabriel's greeting "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you" because she finds it odd and perhaps overly formal to be addressed to her. Yet Gabriel is intentional in addressing her with the respect appropriate to who she is, even if it means going noticeably outside of conventional greetings. Similarly, in worship we greet each other with a respect appropriate to who each of us is as a child of God, even though it may feel odd and overly formal. The presiding minister will usually quote 2 Corinthians 13:13, "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you" while extending their arms to the assembly, and may even bow when the assembly replies, "And also with you." By emulating a more formal greeting used by Paul and received by the ancient church, we see one another a little differently: as honored members of a community stretching through time and surrounded by God's grace and love.

Announcements and Weekly Events!

Announcements

1. God's Grindz (Jan and Feb) & Mobile Muchies needs volunteers (Thursday AM)
2. Food Distribution – **Recap**
6. Youth Group – **Sunday, December 20** – Gingerbread House Decorating!
7. College and Young Adults - **Monday, December 21** - Gingerbread House Decorating!
8. Christmas Eve Service – **Thursday, December 24**
 - * **Hybrid – local and Facebook live**
 - * **7:30 P.M. service - Candlelight Christmas Eve Service**
 - * **11:00 P.M. service - Candlelight Service of Scriptures, Carols, & Communion**

Weekly Events

- ◇ Youth Group
 - Sunday, December 20,** "" @ 5:30-7:00pm, Fellowship hall
- ◇ College and Young Adults
 - Monday, December 21,** "" @ 5:30-7:00pm, Fellowship hall
- ◇ Women's Book Study – Advent Book
 - Wednesday, December 23,** Christmas break, no group
- ◇ Table Talk – Simply Wait: Cultivating Stillness in the Season of Advent
 - Thursday, December 24,** Christmas Eve, no group
- ◇ Centering Prayer with Liedeke Bulder
 - Saturday, December 26,** @ 9-10am via zoom <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9079773456>

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Order for Worship

Welcome, Check-In, and Announcements

Type into the Facebook chatbox and respond and say "Aloha!" to those joining us here locally and others from around the world!

Moment of Mindfulness

Take a moment to center your heart and prepare your heart for worship.

*Confession and Forgiveness

P Trusting in the Word of Life given in Baptism, we are gathered in the name of the Father, Makua, and of the Son, Keiki Kane, and of the Holy Spirit, Uhane Hemolele.

C Amen

P Together, let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Loving and forgiving God,

C we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.

P People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

*Gathering Song

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 far - and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,

Refrain

un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 teach us your will and guide our way.
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

*The Apostolic Greeting

- P The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.
 C **And also with you.**

*Prayer of the Day

- P Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
 C **Amen**

First Reading

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Instead of David building a house (temple) for God, God promises to establish David's house (dynasty) forever. Centuries later, after the Babylonian exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the

¹Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." ³Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all

that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived

in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the

name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.
to spring up before all the nations.

A The Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

The Lightning of the Advent Wreath

Advent 4

P Blessed are you, God of our Salvation; you promised that the One of peace would come from Bethlehem to feed your flock and make us live securely. As we light these candles, kindle in us the fire of your love, infuse in us the fruit of your Word, and empower us to lift up the lowly and to fill the hungry with good things; let your face shine on us and bless us that we may be saved.

C Amen

Second Reading

Romans 16:25-27

Paul closes his letter to the Romans by praising God because, in the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, God has revealed the promised, divine plan of salvation for all humanity. Paul proclaims this gospel of Christ in order to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations.

²⁵Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the

Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

A The Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

*The Gospel Acclamation

Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, give thanks to the ris - en Lord;
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, give praise to his name.

*Holy Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people from little known places. This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in this gospel.

P The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the first chapter.



☩ Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He 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. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to

the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The 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. ³⁶And 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. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then 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.

P The Gospel of the Lord.



☩ Praise to you, O Christ.

Keiki Sermon

Sermon

*Hymn of the Day

Here I am, Lord



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

Presentation of the Leis

Today we say aloha and mahalo to Mark and Clark, Liz and Doug. We are so grateful for their fellowship and ministry here with us at LLC. We bless them and send them to proclaim the Good News and continue God's work in the world.

**Apostles' Creed*

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 saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**The Prayers of the Church*

P God of power and might, fulfill your promise and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

A Gracious God, all generations call you blessed. In this holy season we pray for our neighbors of other denominations and faith. Inspire the faith of their people. Cultivate understanding among us and strengthen us in love and service to our community. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Creator God, you scatter the proud. Everything we have belongs first to you. Bless and protect the seas, mountains, plains, forests, skies, and soils that surround us. Give us humility as we tend them. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Righteous God, you humble the powerful and lift up the lowly. We pray for the leaders of all nations, that they amplify the voices of people in need. Guide all people entrusted with leadership, to create societies in which everyone can flourish. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Compassionate God, you fill the hungry with good things and send the rich away empty. Nourish those who lack access to adequate food and nutrition. Bless the work of advocates, community organizers, and food pantries. Encourage others to provide for their neighbors in need. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

- A Healing God, you pour out mercy to all who cry out to you. Surround everyone in need of healing in body, mind, or spirit with your tender presence (*especially*). Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.**
- P Eternal God, you are faithful to the promises you made to our forebears. We give thanks for the ministry of Katharina von Bora Luther and other ancestors who organized, planned, dreamed, encouraged, and reached out as they served you. We give thanks for the bold leadership of female leaders in our own time. Inspire others with their steadfast witness. Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.**
- P Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C Amen**

**The Queen's Prayer*

The musical score is written for piano in 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has two staves: a treble clef staff with a melody and a bass clef staff with a harmonic accompaniment. The second system also has two staves with similar notation. The lyrics are written below the treble clef staff of each system.

Piano

O kou a - lo - ha no A i - a i ka La - ni, A
 No - lai - la e ka - Haku Ma - la - lo kou e - he - u, Ko

Pno

o kou oi - a i - o, He he - mo - le - le hoi
 ma - kou ma - lu - hi - a, A mau loa a - ku no. A - me - ne.

English Translation

1. O Lord thy Loving Mercy,
 Is high as the Heavens.
 It tells us of thy truth.
 And 'tis filled with holiness
3. For thy grace I beseech thee.
 Bring us 'neath thy protection.
 And peace will be thy portion
 Now and forever more. Amen

The Sharing of the Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

P Let us share the peace of the Lord with those here locally and those joining us online via Facebook live!

Offertory Word

Dear friends, we invite you into a time of gifts, tithes, and offerings. If you are desire God in this season of Advent, and want to see God show up in your life, take a step of faith and considering giving today. Faith comes alive when it is put into action. May the joy of giving fill your heart, not out of duty or obligation but as the overflow of a worshipful heart that has tasted and seen the infinite worth of our Savior.

If God puts it on your heart to give, donations can be given here today, mailed in, or given online our website [here](#) or you can copy and paste the weblink below @

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[appver3=tYgT1GfNxRUldiimjHMvORYXmm3bazY6GfrmTtVDZydsksODEa-Up5lt373GHnco2evTpo0mld6BrVzd2nG0p8xSFKZ9u6c4AzLo4CjNx7k=&ver=3](https://www.eservicepayments.com/cgi-bin/Vanco_ver3.vps?appver3=tYgT1GfNxRUldiimjHMvORYXmm3bazY6GfrmTtVDZydsksODEa-Up5lt373GHnco2evTpo0mld6BrVzd2nG0p8xSFKZ9u6c4AzLo4CjNx7k=&ver=3)

Offertory Response

Lord of Aloha

God of the is - lands, Lord of the seas, Ma - ker of beau - ty and source of the breeze,

5 King of Cre - a - tion, an - cient and new, Lord of A - lo - ha we wor - ship you.

9 Auth - or of mer - cy, Giv - er of grace, Bles - sed Re - deem - er who died in our place, Fath - er of one O

14 ha - na are you, Lift - ing our voic - es we sing "Al - le - lu" Lord of A - lo - ha we wor - ship you.

19 God of the is - lands, Lord of the seas, Ma - ker of beau - ty and source of the breeze,

23

King of Cre - a - tion, an cient and new, Lord of A - lo - ha we wor - ship you.

27

Lord of A - lo - ha we wor - ship you.

**Offertory Prayer*

P Let us pray. Gracious and abundant God, you have done great things for us, and we rejoice. In this bread and cup you give us life forever. In your boundless mercy, strengthen us and open our hearts to the world's needs, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen

**The Words of Institution*

(All are welcome to share in this meal with us. The sacraments are provided in accordance to synodical guidelines in collaboration with CDC, state, and local precautions. If you do not have sacraments, please raise your hand and an usher will bring them to you.)

**The Lord's Prayer*

Our Father, 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

**The Blessing*

P The body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

**The Post Communion Prayer*

P Let us pray. Gracious and abundant God, you have done great things for us, and we rejoice. In this bread and cup you give us life forever. In your boundless mercy, strengthen us and open our hearts to the world's needs, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

**The Benediction*

P The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace in the name of Makua, Keiki Kane, and Uhane Hemolele

C Amen.

**The Sending Song*

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin, and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Dismissal

P Go in peace, prepare the way of the Lord !

C Thanks be to God!

Upcoming Commemorations

Katharina von Bora Luther, renewer of the church, died 1552

Sunday, December 20, 2020

Born to an impoverished nobleman, Katie eventually took vows as a nun, but around age twenty-four she and several other nuns who were influenced by the writings of Martin Luther left the convent. Six children were born to Katie and Martin.

Stephen, Deacon and Martyr

Saturday, December 26, 2020

Stephen was a deacon and the first martyr of the church. He was one of those seven upon whom the apostles laid hands after they had been chosen to serve widows and others in need. Later, Stephen's preaching angered the temple authorities, and they ordered him to be put to death by stoning.

Advent Addresses Anxiety

I didn't realize this until I had read through the lectionary a few times. As I was praying through it, asking God what He wanted to teach us, the Old Testament lesson jumped out at me.

Have a look at 2 Samuel 7:11b-12. The Word says, "the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever."

Now, we might be thinking, "Well, this doesn't apply to me because God hasn't called me to be King and I'm not David." This is true, but we are also partakers in the promises of God to ALL HIS DESCENDENTS! This promise is given to all of us.

Literally and biblically, this is one way we can read the text and discern its meaning for our lives. Ephesians 3:17 says, "Christ will make His home in your heart as you trust Him," and 1 Corinthians 3:16 says, "We are the temple of the living God."

In Advent, Christ will come to us and make His home in our hearts, in our lives, and live and dwell with us in the most intimate way! And when Christ comes, He will bring His Kingdom, His rule, and His reign in and to our lives. What this means for us is that we can simply rest easy and wait for Christ to come (into our hearts and lives).

If you're struggling with anxiety, if you're struggling with fear, maybe it's related to work, finances, family issues, addiction, depression, whatever it may be, rest assured: Christ IS coming! Christ will come and make His home in your heart and dwell at the center of your life. There WILL BE peace. He WILL GIVE strength. He WILL BRING help. There WILL COME hope. To you, for you, for whatever you're facing and for whatever you're going through. Christ will come to you and make all things new! Wait and watch

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