

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 22, 2019



GOLD HILL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*A CONGREGATION OF THE MONTANA SYNOD OF
THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (ELCA)*

Welcome to Gold Hill Evangelical Lutheran Church, and a special welcome to our guests and those returning after a time away. We're gathered as a Christian community to worship the Lord!

Thank you for worshipping with us this morning!

Please let us know if there are other ways we can be of service.

Guests are invited to fill out the small green contact card in the rack in front of you and hand it to the Pastor or other worship leaders or place it in the offering plate.

We promise not to 'stalk' anyone – we're just trying to let you know we care.

Our Congregation's Mission Statement:

EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, UNITED TO SERVE

The Guiding Principles of God's People at Gold Hill Lutheran

Principle 1: Jesus Christ is our Lord & Savior

Principle 2: The Holy Spirit & worship strengthen us

Principle 3: We are a welcoming & inviting community in Christ

Principle 4: We share the Word with confidence and courage

Principle 5: Our faith leads us to serve joyfully

Principle 6: We are generous with our gifts

www.Facebook.com/GoldHillLutheranChurch.ELCA.ButteMT

Check out our GROWING website at www.GoldHillLutheran.org

934 Placer Street – Butte, MT 59701 – 406-723-4242

Mary Johnston – ChurchOffice@GoldHillLutheran.org

Pastor Trina Johnsten, interim - PastorGoldHill@gmail.com

Today's Worship Leaders

Worship Leaders:	Pastor Trina Johnsten, interim
Assisting Minister:	Curt Quist
Music Ministers:	Susan Repola
Communion Ministers:	Ed & Connie Engle
Ushers:	Revonda Stordahl, Cheryl Neuhart
Roving Greeter:	Mike Lawson
Additional Servant Ministers:	Tavia Broudy & Ruschelle Tyvand

FEAR NOT! A SERVICE FOR ADVENT

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2019

*Indicates that congregation stands.

Bolded texts are said in unison.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Blessing and Lighting of the Advent Wreath

We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.

As we light the candles on this wreath,
open our eyes to see your presence
in the lowly ones of this earth.

Enlighten us with your grace,
that we may sing of your advent among us
in the Word made flesh.

Grant this through Christ our Lord,
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

Amen.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel, #257, vs 1 and 2

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Wisdom from on high,
embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay;
teach us your will and guide our way.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

Call to Worship

Surely God is my salvation;

I will trust, and will not be afraid,

for the Lord God is my strength, and my might;

and has become my salvation.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,

and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him;
his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

(Based on Isaiah 11:1-3, 12:2)

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray,

**God of our salvation,
you speak through angels and prophets,
telling us: *Be strong, do not fear!***

For I will come and save you.

**Open our eyes and unstop our ears,
that we may sing for joy at the coming of your Son,
our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Lessons may be found at the end of the bulletin.

Fear not, Zechariah, priest and righteous one

Reading portions of Luke 1:5-25

Following a brief silence for prayer and meditation:

Thus says the Lord: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.

You have called us by name; we are yours.

Hymn *Blessed be the God of Israel*, #250

Fear not, Mary, favored one of God

Reading Luke 1:26-38

Following a brief silence for prayer and meditation:

Thus says the Lord: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.

You have called us by name; we are yours.

Hymn *The Annunciation and The Magnificat from Holden Evening Prayer*, page 8

Fear not, Joseph, son of David

Reading Matthew 1:18-25

Following a brief silence for prayer and meditation:

Thus says the Lord: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.

You have called us by name; we are yours.

Hymn *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*, #254

Fear not, Chosen People of God

Reading Isaiah 43:1-7, 15-21

Following a brief silence for prayer and meditation:

Thus says the Lord: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.

You have called us by name; we are yours.

Hymn *You Are Mine* #581

Sermon Pastor Trina Johnsten

***Hymn** *Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn*, #242

***Prayers of Intercession**

Each portion of the prayer concludes:

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

***Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Gathering of Offering *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*, #631

Offering Prayer

***Words of Institution**

***The Lord's Prayer** page 208

Communion

All are welcome at this Table – members, guests, children, friends.

Communion will be served continuously today.

Come forward by the center aisle and return to your seat by the outside aisle.

If you are unable to come forward, we will bring Communion to you.

Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available.

Please let the communion servers know if you need these.

Communion Hymn *You Satisfy the Hungry Heart*, #484

***Blessing and Prayer**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

***Benediction**

Announcements

***Sending Hymn** *Joy to the World, #267*

***Dismissal**

Fear not! Christ is coming soon.

Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!

portions of Luke 1:5-25 Fear not, Zechariah, priest and righteous one

A reading from the gospel of Luke, the first chapter:

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah... His wife...was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

Once when Zechariah was serving as priest before God... he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside.

Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was *terrified*; and *fear* overwhelmed him.

But the angel said to him, "*Do not be afraid*, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God... [and he will] make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

Zechariah said to the angel, "How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years."

The angel replied, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.”

Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary...

After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, “This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.”

Luke 1:26-38

Fear not, Mary, favored one of God

A reading from the gospel of Luke, the first chapter:

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

The angel said to her, “*Do not be afraid*, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 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. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” 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. 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. For nothing will be impossible with God.”

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.

Matthew 1:18-25**Fear not, Joseph, son of David**

A reading from the gospel of Matthew, the first chapter:

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. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. 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. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

portions of Isaiah 43**Fear not, chosen people of God**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah, the 43rd chapter:

But now thus says the Lord, ...who created you, ...who formed you...: *Do not fear*, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; ...they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. ...Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life.

Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, “Give them up,” and to the south, “Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth — everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”

I am the Lord, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King. Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?