



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20th, 2020

9:30 a.m.



Join us for Livestream worship via Facebook

Atonement Lutheran Church

1900 Westfall Road, Rochester, NY, 14618

Email: office@atonementrochester.org *Phone:* (585) 442-1018

Web site: www.atonementrochester.org

Facebook: [fb.com/atonementlutheranchurch](https://www.facebook.com/atonementlutheranchurch)

GATHERING

PRELUDE

The Angel Gabriel

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever. **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Loving and forgiving God,
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,
and turn us from our sin.
Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.

People of God, hear this glad news:
by God's endless grace
your sins are forgiven, and you are free-
free to live in the peaceable kingdom of God.
May you be strengthened in God's love,
† sustained by Christ's peace,
and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

HYMN

Once In Royal David's City

269

GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

SPECIAL MUSIC

Candlelight Carol
Skylark Vocal Ensemble

-John Rutter

WORD

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 1:26-38

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory 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.

HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel vv. 7, 8

257

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.**

The Four Candles are Lit

Light One Candle to Watch For Messiah



1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-55

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

⁴⁶And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN

Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn

242

NICENE CREED

Let us confess our faith, and the faith of the Church, with the words of the Nicene Creed.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

*All On a Starry Night
Skylark Vocal Ensemble*

-Joseph Graham

PRAYERS

As we prepare for the coming of Christ, let us pray for all people according to their needs. Wait with us. Watch with us: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Receive our prayers, O God, as we await the presence of your Son, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught:

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.

SENDING

BENEDICTION

May Almighty God, † who sends us light to overcome all darkness, grant you grace, mercy and peace. **Amen.**

HYMN

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

282

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

O Holy Night
Skylark Vocal Ensemble

-Arr'd PTX

ATONEMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Rev. Gail Swanson, Pastor
Email: pastorgails@aol.com - Home Phone: 585-434-0980

David McCarthy, Director of Music Ministry
Becky R. Wiesmore, Administrative Assistant
Janeen Oliver, Youth & Family Ministry Coordinator

Email: office@atonementrochester.org
Website: www.atonementrochester.org
Facebook: [fb.com/atonementlutheranchurch](https://www.facebook.com/atonementlutheranchurch)

MISSION STATEMENT

*Atonement Lutheran Church is a gathering of God's people in Christ called to:
Invite all people into the presence of the living God,
Prepare for ministry in daily life and
Go into the world as disciples*

WELCOME! Welcome to worship, and a special welcome to those who are visiting with us today. If you are interested in becoming a member of our congregation or learning more about our ministries, please speak to our pastor.

Nursery care and use of our church nursery are not available at this time.



WELCOME TO OUR GUEST MUSICIANS

We offer our thanks and appreciation to the members of *Skylark Vocal Ensemble* for sharing their gift of music with us this morning.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE December 24th at 5:00 p.m.

Worship with us in the beauty of candlelight **Livestream** on our Atonement Facebook page as we hear the story of Light in darkness... listen to the sound of familiar carols accompanied by guitar, lute, strings, and organ....and celebrate the birth of the Babe in the Manger who came to make a home in us.

Join us for the lighting of candles during the singing of "Silent Night" by:

- ~ Using candles available in your home
- ~ Stopping by our Candle Pickup!

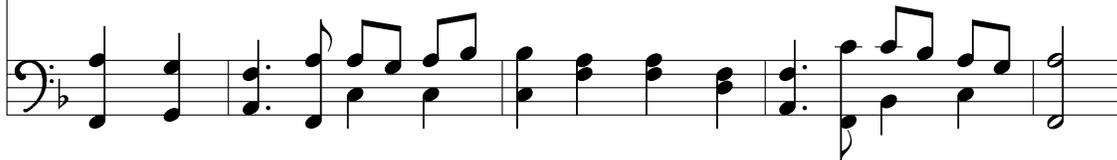
* Individual candles and candle holders normally used for our Christmas Eve services will be available to be picked up from the plastic bins outside the Sanctuary (East) entrance from **December 21st - 24th**.

* If you would like candles dropped off at your home, please contact the church office.

Once in Royal David's City



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,
3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;
4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,



where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;
we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;



Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.
there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.



O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



Re-joice! Re-joice!



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

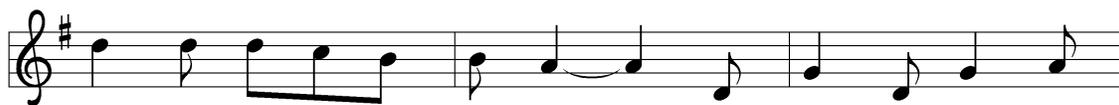
7 O come, O King of nations, come,
O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you;
restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*

8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,
3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,

from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.
who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,

“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king.”
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,
look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,

The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!
and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

COPYRIGHT ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Liturgical Text and Music © Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted by Permission. Augsburg Fortress Liturgies. Annual License # SAS006668.
- *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* Text © 1997 Augsburg Fortress, P.O. Box 1209, Minneapolis, MN, 55440. All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission OneLicense #A-718995.
- *Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn* Text & music © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission OneLicense #A-718995.



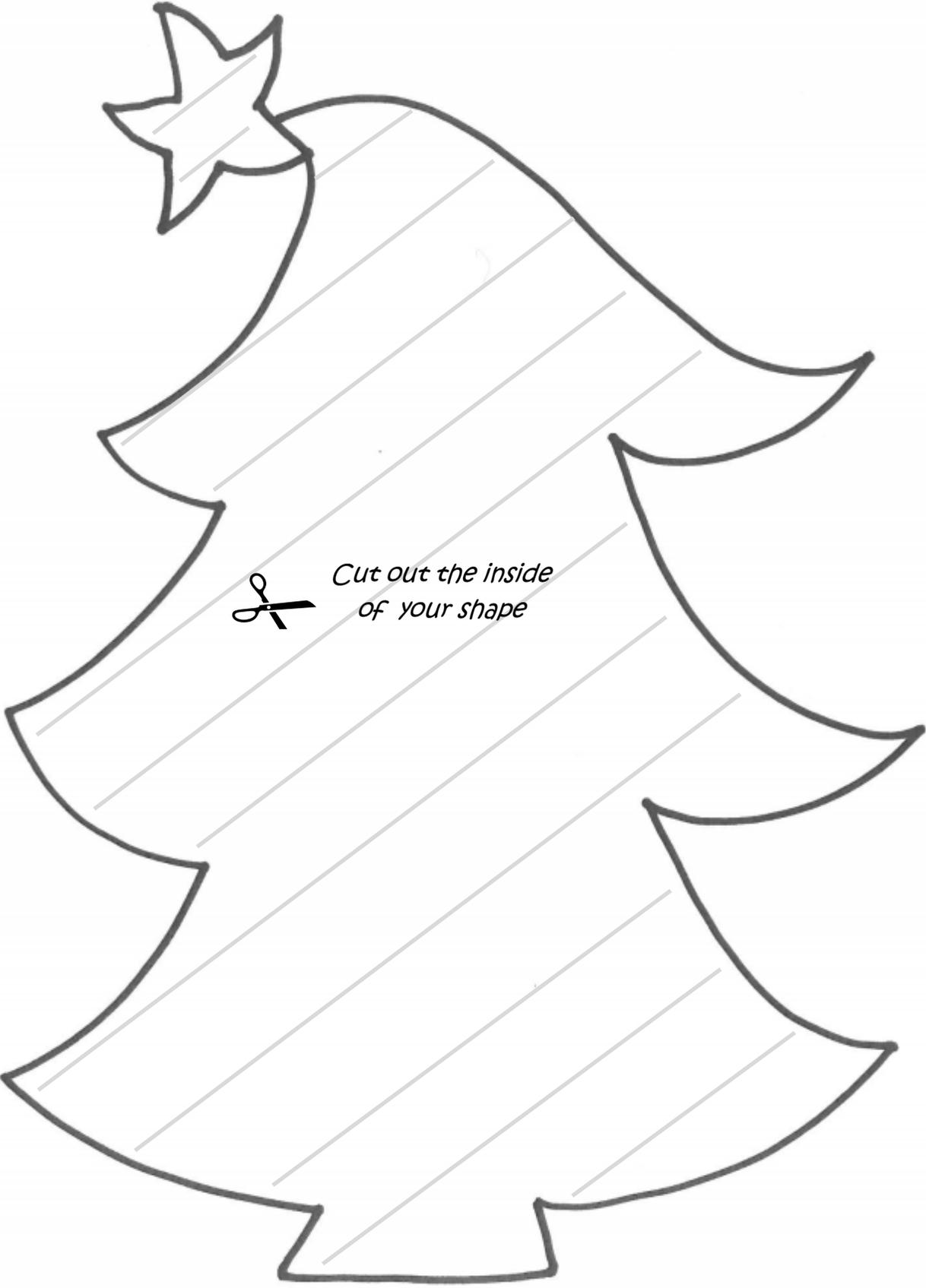
KIDS' CRAFT: Christmas Tree Stained Glass Window Decoration

You will need:

1 pc of dark paper or construction paper, scissors, 2 pcs clear contact paper, a 6" pc of yarn or ribbon, and colored tissue paper ripped into small pcs.

- 1: Use the tree outline on the next page to trace it onto a piece of dark construction paper. (Black, navy blue, brown, or dark green work well.) *You can also draw and use a different simple shape outline if you want to, like a present, an angel, or a candy cane!*
- 2: Make a small hole in the middle of the shape, and cut out the INSIDE of the shape, so that you have an empty 'frame' of your tree.
- 3: Cut a piece of clear contact paper the same size as your paper, and carefully stick your frame onto it. ~ *The cut out, middle part will be very sticky!* ~
- 4: Tear colored tissue paper into small pieces and stick them on the inside sticky part to completely cover it.
- 5: Cut a 6" piece of yarn or ribbon. Fold it in half, and place the ends on top of your paper (same side as tissue).
- 6: Stick another piece of clear contact paper on the back of your picture, over the piece of yarn or ribbon and all the pieces of tissue paper.
- 7: Hang your tree in a window to see the light shine through all the colors!





*Cut out the inside
of your shape*