

Fourth Sunday in Advent - Theme: Simplicity and Faith

18 December 2022



Ven. Moses Thabethe



Rev. Matthew Wright



Rev. Sharmain James



Rev. Alison Thabethe



Rev. Margaret Place

The full service or the sermon can be viewed on the website.

Processional Hymn

For Mary, Mother of the Lord
God's holy name be praised,
Who first the Son of God adored
As on her child she gazed.

The angel Gabriel brought the word
She should Christ's mother be;
Our Lady, handmaid of the Lord,
Made answer willingly.

The heavenly call she thus obeyed,
And so God's will was done;
The second Eve love's answer made
Which our redemption won.

She gave her body for God's shrine,
Her heart to piercing pain,
And knew the cost of love divine
When Jesus Christ was slain.

Dear Mary, from your lowliness
And home in Galilee,
There comes a joy and holiness
To every family.

Hail, Mary, you are full of grace,
Above all women blest;
Blest in your Son, whom your embrace
In birth and death confessed.

Author: J. R. Peacey

Call to Worship

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son:
And they shall call him Immanuel, God with us.

The government shall be upon his shoulders:
**His name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

To those who are loved by God and called to be saints:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.



Let us pray.

God of the unexpected, as we make our final preparations to receive your Son, grant us a spirit of willing obedience that, like your servants Mary and Joseph, your will may be done in our lives. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lighting the Advent Candle

Fourth Sunday of Advent: The Candle of Love

As we gather around the Advent wreath, we rejoice that Christmas is a time of prayer and of open hearts when we sing songs of joy. Christmas is a time of worship—the moment when the busiest of us pause in wonder. Christmas happens when God comes to us in love through Jesus Christ and fills us with love for all humankind.

The First Letter of John 4:9-11 says:

God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent God's only Child into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent the Child to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.

Lighting of the Candle

We light this candle to proclaim the coming of the light of God into the world. With the coming of this light is love. Such great love helps us to love God and one another. The colour of this candle is purple—symbolizing the majesty of Christ, who rules in the power of love.

Let us pray:

O God, we thank you that Jesus showed your love for every person— babies and children, old people and young, sick people and those who were strong, rich people and those who were poor. Come to us as Christmas approaches and let love be born in our hearts as you were born into the world on Christmas Day. **Amen**

Collect for Purity

Let us pray.

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.**

Kyrie

sung by Ven Moses Thabethe

**Kyrie eleison x2
Christe eleison x2
Kyrie eleison x2**

Confession

Rend your hearts, and not your garments,
and return to the Lord your God: for God is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

Let us call to mind and confess our sins.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father
in penitence we confess**

that we have sinned against you
through our own fault
in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have left undone.
For the sake of your Son, Christ our Lord
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your Name.

Absolution

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy on you: pardon your sins and set you free from them;
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Collect

**God of Joseph and Mary:
fulfil Joseph's dream
and make us heralds of your salvation;
through Jesus Christ, our Emmanuel,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Word of God

Isaiah 7:10-16
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Romans 1:1-7

Gospel Acclamation

Allelu---ia, Alleluia, Alleluia
Allelu—ia, Alleluia

Let your hearts rejoice in the Lord
Let your word proclaim his deeds
Let your voice sing out to the world
That our God has come to save

Allelu---ia, Alleluia, Alleluia
Allelu—ia, Alleluia

Gospel Reading

Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon

by Revd Sharmain James



The Creed

Let us declare our faith in God.

**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 Holy Spirit

And born of the Virgin Mary.

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come 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

Prayers of Intercession

Heavenly Father, this season of Advent, we have been preparing our hearts and minds for the coming again of your Son into our lives. As we make final preparations to celebrate the Christ-mass, both in our churches and in our homes, with family and friends, we pray that you fill our hearts with your warmth, compassion and love, that we would not forget the true meaning of this special season.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Your Word teaches us to pray for our leaders. At a time when we, as the Church, are preparing to usher into our lives the Prince of Peace, we pray for a peace and calm to descend upon your world. May those who hunger for war be thwarted and those who benefit from war be convicted of their harmful ways. We pray for our own country and its cabinet. As we enter a transitional period in our national politics, we ask that your will would be done, and that peace and justice would prevail.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for the worldwide Anglican Communion, for Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, and for the Anglican Church of Southern Africa, and our Archbishop, Thabo Makgoba. We also pray for our Diocese and for Bishop Steve. This season of Christmas, may the Church universal, with glad heart and clear voice, proclaim to the world the advent of your Son once more. As we prepare to enter a new year, by the power and conviction of your Holy Spirit, may the Church be led into all truth.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

In our preparations to celebrate this season, we are mindful of the relative abundance by which we are blessed. Help us to be mindful of those less fortunate than ourselves and, where we are able, to make provision for such people, that they too may feel the joy of your blessing this Christmas. We pray especially for those without adequate housing and basic amenities, for those who undertake great sacrifice to place food on the table this Christmas time, and for those who may be travelling vast distances with public transport to visit relatives.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

In this fourth and final week of Advent, we pray for the entire community of St Michael's. We thank you for your faithfulness towards us throughout this year. And we continue to place our hope and trust in you as we begin a new year and new chapter in the life of St Michael's. We give great thanks for the work and ministry of the Ven Moses and Revd Alison, and we ask your blessing upon them as they take up new ministries in the Diocese of Pretoria. We commit into your hands the process of appointing a new rector here at St Michael's, praying that your will would be done.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

This final week of Advent, as most of us prepare for glad tidings and joyous celebrations, there are those in our midst whose hearts are weighed down by grief, suffering or worry. Therefore, gracious Father, we commit into your hands those among us who are mourning, as well as the souls of those whose year's mind occurs this week. We pray also for those suffering from illness of any kind. May you strengthen and heal them according to your gracious will.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Heavenly Father, we know that you are a gracious God who hears our prayers. May you answer them as is best for each of us, in the name of Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen.**

Prayer for Offerings

As we approach the feast of the Christ-mass, may these our gifts to you, be pleasing and acceptable, O Lord. May they be set apart for the building up and blessing of your people here and beyond our parish.

In the name of the Father, who loved us and made us accepted in the Beloved; in the name of the Son, who loved us and loosed us from our sins; in the name of the Holy Spirit, who sheds the love of God abroad in our hearts, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Lord's Prayer

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us:

**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 them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,
For ever and ever. Amen.**

Final Prayer

This Advent, may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you, now and for ever. **Amen**

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen

Final Hymn

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his Word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy name, the Lord, the Mighty One.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**

**Tell out, my soul, the glories of his Word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and forevermore!**



Author: Timothy Dudley-Smith (1961)

Giving

Thank you for your continued financial contribution to the church at this time so as to enable St Michael's to meet its obligations in mission and ministry.

E.F.T

St Michael's Church Bank
Standard Bank (051001)
Account Number: 000 176 397
Account Name: Bryanston St Michael

SNAP SCAN



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