

# Fourth Sunday in Advent

## 20<sup>th</sup> Dec 2020

### New Beginnings in Love

#### Led by Fiona Bennett

Welcome

Call to worship

**Augustine Choir: He came down**  
**Voice: Miriam Davidson Taylor**

**Hymn: CH4 323 The first Nowell**

The first Nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as  
they lay:  
in fields where they lay a-keeping their  
sheep  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep:  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.

They lookèd up and saw a star,  
shining in the east, beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.

And by the light of that same star  
three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.

*English traditional carol*

**Opening Prayer with movement**

Learn sign language for "God is with us"

One: By day and by night,  
ALL: God is with us  
One: In our strength & fragility,  
ALL: God is with us  
One: In our hope & our fear,  
ALL: God is with us  
One: God holds each life in love.  
ALL: God is with us



Build your own door by  
Jan Richardson

This star drew nigh to the north-west,  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
and there it did both stop and stay  
right over the place where Jesus lay.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.

Then entered in those wise men three,  
full reverently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence  
their gold and myrrh and frankincense.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.

Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
that hath made heaven and earth of  
naught,  
and with his life Salvation bought.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.

## Advent Candles

### Hymn: Christmas is coming CH4 282

*'Christmas is coming!',  
the Church is glad to sing,  
and let the advent candles  
brightly burn in a ring.*

The first is for God's promise  
to put the wrong things right,  
and bring to earth's darkness  
the hope of love and light.

*'Christmas is coming!',  
the Church is glad to sing,  
and let the advent candles  
brightly burn in a ring.*

The second for the prophets,  
who said that Christ would come  
with good news for many  
and angry words for some.

*'Christmas is coming!',  
the Church is glad to sing,  
John L. Bell (b. 1949)*

*and let the advent candles  
brightly burn in a ring.*

The third is for the Baptist,  
who cried, 'Prepare the way.  
Be ready for Jesus,  
today and every day.'

*'Christmas is coming!',  
the Church is glad to sing,  
and let the advent candles  
brightly burn in a ring.*

The fourth is for the Mother,  
who cared for God's own Son  
and sang how God's justice  
was meant for everyone.

*'Christmas is coming!',  
the Church is glad to sing,  
and let the advent candles  
brightly burn in a ring.*

### Advent Jars: **HOPE is like choosing to live out love.**

#### Reading: Luke 1:26-38 read by Kate Owens

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' [a] 29 But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30 The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. 31 And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32 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. 33 He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' 34 Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' [b] 35 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 [c] will be holy; he will be called Son of God. 36 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. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God.' 38 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.

#### Reflection by Fiona Bennett

#### Offering & Dedication

#### Communion

**Hymn: Come to the table of grace**

Come to the table of grace  
Come to the table of grace  
This God's table it's not yours or mine  
Come to table of grace.

**Song: This is the body of Christ CH4 799**

This is the body of Christ  
Broken that we might be whole.  
This cup as promised by God,  
True to God's Word,  
Cradles our Lord  
Food the good of us all.

**Song: God Bless to us our bread CH4 763**

God bless to us our bread;  
And give bread to all those who are hungry,  
And hunger for justice to all who are fed.  
God bless to us our bread.

*Closing Response*

Presider: Together we are nourished by Jesus' life.

ALL: We go to share his life and love.

**Hymn: Tell out my soul CH4 286**

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!

*Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926)*

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 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 for evermore!

**Notices**

**Blessing & Sung Amen**