

# ***Abiding Peace Lutheran Church***

305-311 Route 46, Budd Lake, NJ 07828  
973-691-9393 • [www.abidingpeacechurch.org](http://www.abidingpeacechurch.org)  
Serena Rice, *pastor* • Benjamin Schroeder, *music director*



## **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Sunday, December 22, 2024

10:00 a.m.

## Welcome to Abiding Peace Lutheran Church!



Abiding Peace Lutheran Church makes Christ known by welcoming all people to a supportive and accepting place to grow in faith and community and to serve the Lord as people created by God, saved by Christ and nurtured by the Holy Spirit. We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation, committed to the full inclusion and celebration of people of all sexualities, genders, and gender expressions, and to the work of racial equity.

In-person visitors are invited to share your contact information with the greeter, if you would like a follow up with the pastor. Thank you for blessing us with your presence. We welcome children to worship and we encourage their participation, including their wiggles and child voices. There is a seating area at the back of the sanctuary with room for little ones to crawl around. If desired, there is also a nursery room available, accompanied by parents or guardians.

**Offering:** The ministry of Abiding Peace is supported by the generous donations of our community. Please consider supporting our work through a variety of giving options, including donations through Venmo (search for @Abiding-Peace-BuddLake), through on-line bill pay with your bank, mailing your offering envelope to the church, or plate giving.

**Holy Communion:** We commune at the altar rail. Please collect an individual cup from the usher when you come forward, or come forward at the end for the common cup. We offer either wine or juice and gluten-free bread. If you are unable to come forward to receive communion, the usher can bring communion to you. You are also welcome to come forward with arms crossed for a blessing.

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## **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

### **WORDS FOR REFLECTION**

*Mary's song of praise is one of the most recognizable passages of scripture, and also one of the most frequently banned. The Magnificat is so much more than one woman's awe-filled response to God's intervention in her life. It is a century-spanning reflection on God's pattern of saving work, which topples human efforts to control history and continually calls us to attend to those whom we think we can ignore or exclude. In her "magnification" of God's work, we are called to reexamine our own world.*

### **PRELUDE**

Prelude on VENI, EMMANUEL French processional, 15th cent. arr. Anna Laura Page

### **GATHERING**

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

### **GREETING**

### **ADVENT HYMN**

*All stand, as able, and sing verse 7. After the candles of the Advent Wreath are lit, please sing verse 8.*

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, v. 7 ELW 257



7 O come, O king of na - tions, come, O Cor - ner - stone that  
8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive



bi - nds in one. Re-fresh the hearts that lo - ng for you.  
Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here



re - store the bro - ken ma - ke us new. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
un - til the son of Go - d ap - pear.



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

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

**A** 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.

**C Amen.**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, v. 8 **ELW 257**

## CONFESSION

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.

**C Amen.**

**P** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P** God of mercy,

**C we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

*P* God of might,

*C* we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.

*P* God in our midst,

*C* we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Birth in our hearts the new life of your mercy.

*P* A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through † Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.

*C* Amen.

**GATHERING HYMN** Sing Out, Earth and Skies (vs. 1–2, 4–5) **W&P 126**

*All sing, as able.*



1 Come, O God of all the earth: come to us, O  
2 Come, O God of wind and flame: fill the earth with  
4 Come, O God of snow and rain: show - er down up -  
5 Come, O Jus - tice, come, O Peace: come and shape our



Righ - teous One; come, and bring our love to birth:  
righ - teous - ness; teach us all to sing your name:  
on the earth; come, O God of joy and pain:  
hearts a - new; come and make op - pres - sion cease:



in the glo - ry of your Son.  
may our lives your love con - fess.  
God of sor - row, God of mirth.  
bring us all to life in you.

*Refrain*

Sing out, earth and skies! Sing of the God who  
 loves you! Raise your joy - ful cries!  
 Dance to the life a - round you!

Text: Marty Haugen. Music: SING OUT, Marty Haugen. Text & music © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

*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.**

*P* Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come,

***C* With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## **WORD PROCLAIMED**

*God speaks to us through the sacred story enacted within our community.*

## **ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS PAGEANT: AN ANCIENT AND MODERN MAGNIFICAT**

*Performed by the Abiding Peace Lord's Players*

**Opening Scene:** Elizabeth & Zechariah's house

**Modern Magnificat Scene 1:** A hotel conference room, where a reality TV show is being filmed

My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord, v. 1 ELW 573

1 My soul now mag - ni - fies the Lord; my spir - it  
leaps, by joy pos - sessed. You keep me in your kind re -  
gard; all gen - er - a - tions call me blessed.

The musical score is written on three staves in G minor (one flat) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence at the end of the third staff.

Text: Stephanie K. Frey, b. 1952. Alt., based on the Magnificatt. Text © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

**Modern Magnificat Scene 2:** A living room, where a nana and her grandchild are decorating a Christmas tree

My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord, v. 2 ELW 573

2 For you a - lone, O God of might, have done a -  
maz - ing things for me. Your mer - cy flows; your name like  
light re - mains in time per - pet - ual - ly.

The musical score is written on three staves in G minor (one flat) and 4/4 time. The melody is identical to the first scene, with a final cadence at the end of the third staff.

### Modern Magnificat Scene 3: Meeting of a church education planning team

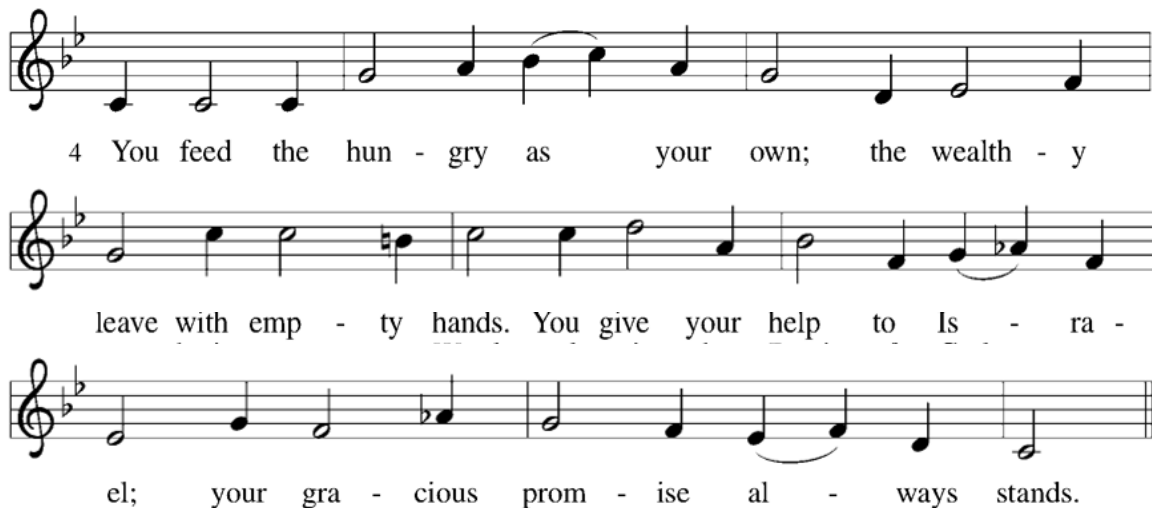
My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord, v. 3 **ELW 573**



3 Your arm is strong; your strength is great. You scat - ter  
those of proud in - tent and cast them down from high es -  
tate; then give the low your nour - ish - ment.

### Modern Magnificat Scene 4: A phone call to “Ye Ol’ Country Inn & Tavern”

My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord, v. 4 **ELW 573**



4 You feed the hun - gry as your own; the wealth - y  
leave with emp - ty hands. You give your help to Is - ra -  
el; your gra - cious prom - ise al - ways stands.



## Modern Magnificat Scene 5: A coffee shop on December 23rd

My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord, v. 5 ELW 573

5 Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or  
to the in - car - nate Word, and praise the Pow'r of God most  
high, from age to age by all a - dored.

**Closing Scene:** Elizabeth & Zechariah's house, with visitors

### MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### THE OFFERING

*Now we join Christians all over the world in worshiping God through the giving of our financial resources, in recognition and thanksgiving that all we have comes from God.*

*P* Let us with gladness present the offerings of our life and labor to the Lord.

### OFFERING MUSIC

Xmas Intro

Benjamin Schroeder

### OFFERTORY

*All stand, as able, and sing.*

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**venmo**

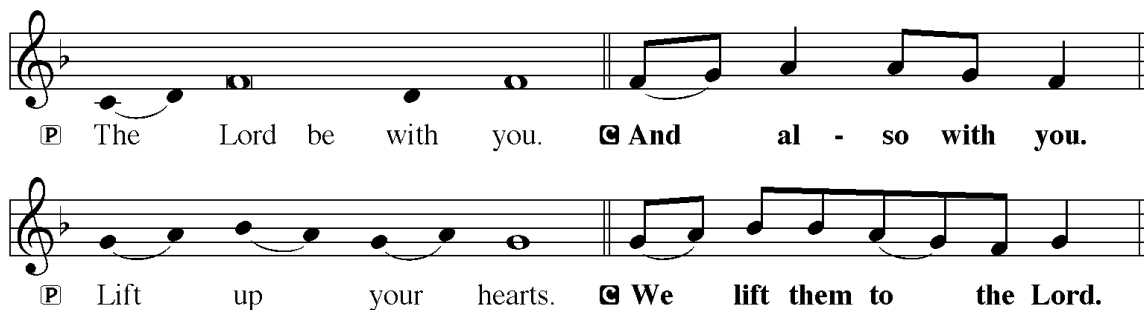


What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all God's be-ne-fits to me? I will  
of - fer the sa-cri-fice of thanks - giv-ing and will call on the name of the Lord. I will  
take the cup of sal - va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will  
pay my vows to the Lord now in the pre - sence of all God's peo - ple, in the  
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

A Creator God,

**C** you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



☐ The Lord be with you. ☑ And also with you.  
☐ Lift up your hearts. ☑ We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

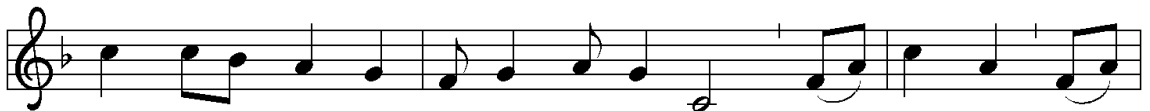


It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*P* It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

*P* Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

On the night when he was betrayed, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me."

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

***C* Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

*P* With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

***C* Come, Lord Jesus.**

*P* Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

***C* Come, Lord Jesus.**

*P* All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of all creation, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

***C* Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*P* Dear Jesus, teach us to pray:

***C* 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.**

*Please be seated*

*P* God feeds us with tender mercy.

*C* **We come to the table with thanksgiving.**


*You will be invited to come forward to the altar rail, collecting a cup from the usher. Please observe distancing at the rail, hold your hand flat for the bread and raise your cup for the chalice bearer to pour. You may leave your cup in the basket in the front row when you return to your seat.*



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

**COMMUNION HYMN**

**Wait for the Lord ELW 262**

*Stand, if you are able.*



Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.



Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

Text: Taizé Community

Music: WAIT FOR THE LORD, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994

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

**C** **Amen.**

**A** Generous God,

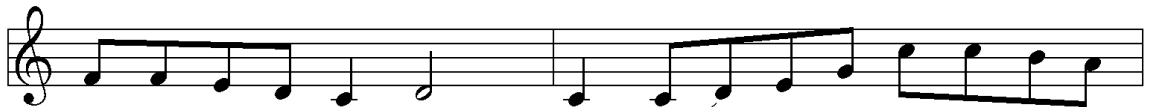
**C** we thank you for the gift of life and for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us and for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy and for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. Amen.



**Q** Lord, now you let your ser- vant go in peace; your word has been ful- filled.



My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre- pared in the



sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re- veal you to the



na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo- ple Is - ra - el.



Glo-ry to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spir - it,



as it was in the be-gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men

### SENDING

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

### THE BENEDICTION

*P* God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God our hope for the journey † bless and keep you now and forever.

**C Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SENDING HYMN

Soon and Very Soon **ELW 439**

*Please stand, as you are able.*



1 Soon and ver - y soon  
 2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,  
 3 No more dy - in' there,  
 4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon  
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,  
 no more dy - in' there,  
 soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon  
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.  
 no more dy - in' there,  
 soon and ver - y soon



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

*Coda after stanza 4*



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -



jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

Text: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945

Music: VERY SOON, Andraé Crouch

Text and music © 1976 Bud John Songs, Inc./Crouch Music, admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing

## DISMISSAL

**A** Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

Praise Band

*Altar flowers donated by George & Cindy Pawlo in honor of  
 Kylie's and Gary's birthdays*





**Next Week's Lessons:**

Isaiah 9:2-7

Micah 5:2-5a

Luke 1:26-35, 38

Luke 2:1-7

Luke 2:8-16

Luke 2:21-38

Matthew 2:1-11

Matthew 2:13-18

John 1:1-14

<b>Serving in Worship</b>		
	<b>Today, 12/22</b>	<b>Next Week, 12/29</b>
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Mary Kasakove	Mary Kasakove
<b>Counter</b>	Sandy Carlson	Sandy Carlson
<b>Assistant Minister</b>	Demetria Laird	Maria Jerez
<b>Lector</b>	Maria Jerez	multiple
<b>Communion Assist.</b>	Mary Kasakove	Cindy Pawlo
<b>Usher/Greeter/Acolyte</b>	Doug Laird	Sandy Carlson
<b>Soloist</b>	Howard Corneilson	Quinn Rice
<b>Livestream Assistant</b>	Sheeba David	Tyler Rice

**OFFICE HOURS**

**Pastor Serena:** Tuesday, 12/24: 12:00pm - 5:00pm

**Erin:** Thursday, 12/28: 9:00am - 12:00pm

**Keep These Friends in Your Prayers:**

Those who are sick or in need: Bill Phinney, Joshua Olsen, Dawn Larsen, Jon, Cheryl Inglin, Judy Consentino, Jon & Maria, Sandy Kahler, Karen Qualls, Jim Tangen, Otto Schroeder, Don Larsen, Joseph Horn, Ryan Manhardt, Grace Bessasparis, Jackson Cook, Donna Fahy, Jeanne Scalora, Valeriy Braginetz, Jennifer Kahler, Mark Dennis, John Corneilson, Karen & Ken Predmore and family, David Breault, Charles Wetzel, Patricia Coats, Alia Duffy, Harold Olsen, Aimee Nilsen, Joy Laird, Lydia Millner, Dean Kowal, April Inglin, Bella Adams, Bodhi Maslow, Barbara P, Susan & William Swainy, Scott Schaefer, Audrey Moehringer, Tara Woodard-Lehman, the Masone Family, George Schroeder, Sibylle Scheiermann, Leslie Picinich, Hailey Ochs Plante, Kate Draven, Dawn Huber, Nancy Appel, Kenneth Johanson, Elle & Heinz and family, Michale LaFave, Ellen Parker, Vicki Gentler, Carol Baker, Ursula Schroeder.

**Those in mourning:** The family of Woody Woodruff; The family of Cecile Hopkins; The loved ones of Charlie Bertz (friend of Sibylle's); The Schroeder & Zwicker families (for the loss of Michael, his mother Elizabeth, and Sibyller's mother and father Margret and Rolf); The family of Papa Joe (Christine's father); The family of Vera Reybitz; The family of Neil Nilsen (father of Heather Nilsen).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

~ **Church office hours:** Pastor Serena will hold limited office hours on Christmas Eve. She is also available for pastoral care by phone, zoom or other means on other days (Saturday is her day off). Our office administrator, Erin, is in the office on Thursday mornings, unless otherwise noted in the bulletin. If you have a need to access the church building, please contact Pastor Serena.

~ **Food Pantry Needs for December:** Peanut butter, Parmalat milk, fruit, juice, hot-dogs & buns, frozen meatballs, mashed potatoes, rice, crackers, cake mixes, gluten free pasta.

~ **Altar Flowers:** Please consider signing up for altar flower donations. Price: \$17.50. If interested send an email to Erin Porter with your dedication and date you want the flowers on the Altar and send your check to the church.

~ **Interested in hosting a coffee hour?** Not hard. Just bring some store bought baked goods. Coffee is already prepared ahead of time by the Altar Guild. Questions: Call Demetria Laird at 973-398-9614.

### ART, MUSIC, AND LITURGY

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## This week at Abiding Peace

### Sunday, Dec 22

- Worship Service, 10:00 a.m. - Advent Pageant; In-person and Live-streamed
- Decorating the church for Christmas, following worship.

### Monday, Dec 23

### Tuesday, Dec 24

- Candlelight Christmas Eve Service @ 7:00 p.m. & 10:15 p.m.
- Choir Rehearsal @ 9:30

### Wednesday, Dec 25

- Merry Christmas!
- AA meeting, 6:30 p.m.

### Thursday, Dec 26

### Friday, Dec 27

- Newsletter submission deadline.

### Saturday, Dec 28

## Next week at Abiding Peace

### Sunday, December 29

- Service of Lessons & Carols, 10:00 a.m. - In-person and Live-streamed

### Monday, December 30

### Tuesday, December 31

### Wednesday, January 1

- Happy New Year!
- AA meeting, 6:30 p.m.

### Thursday, January 2

### Friday, January 3

### Saturday, January 4

## Upcoming Events

- Sunday, Jan. 5, 10:00 a.m. - **Star Words!**
- Sunday, Jan. 12, 1:30 p.m. - **Council Meeting**
- Sunday, Jan. 19, 10:00 a.m. - **Bishop's Visit**
- Sunday, Jan. 26, 10:00 a.m. - **RIC Sunday**
- Sunday, Jan. 26, 11:00 a.m. - **Congregational Meeting**

For all live-streamed services, click (or type) the link below:

<https://www.facebook.com/AbidingPeaceChurch/live>