

# **Pulpit Announcements for the Fourth Sunday of Advent December 24, 2023**

**Welcome to all who are here today on this  
4th Sunday of Advent.**

**Whoever you are, or wherever you find yourself on the  
journey. Know that here at St. Matthias, ALL ARE WELCOME!**

- **Did you take a copy of the book “Beautiful Eucharist” for your family? This Christmas gift to our families is a stunning collection of life-changing reflections about Jesus truly present in the Eucharist.**
- **Please see our Christmas schedule. We have several Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Our choir will have a very special presentation of the prelude before the Midnight Mass. Come, sing, pray, and enjoy the heavenly melodies.**
- **Our parish Office will be open only on two days this week, on Wednesday and Thursday.**
- **Our next weekly Monday evening Adoration will be on January 1st. Do drop in any time between 6-8 pm and experience for yourself the calming effect of being with Jesus.**

**Does it feel strange that tomorrow/today is the Christmas Eve?**

**Do you feel unprepared for the celebration of Christmas?**

**Today’s gospel shows Mary’s perplexity when Angel Gabriel told her that she was going to be the mother of the Messiah.**

**She surrenders to God’s will, not fully understanding  
what was in store for her.**

**Let us do the same as we prepare to welcome our Messiah ...**

# Music for Our Assembly

December 24, 2023

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

*Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One:  
let the earth be opened and bring forth a savior.*

### Gathering Hymn – O Come O Come Emmanuel

1. 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!**

5. O come, O Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery.

6. O come, O Day spring from on high  
And cheer us by your drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadow put to flight.

7. O come, Desire of nations, bind  
In one the hearts of humankind;  
Bid thou our sad divisions cease,  
And be thyself our Prince of Peace.

*Text: LM with refrain; 'O' Antiphons, Latin, 9th cent.; verses 1, 3–6 para. in Psalterium Cantionum  
Catholicarum, Cologne, 1710; tr. by John M. Neale, 1818–1866; verses 2, 7 tr. fr. The Hymnal 1940, alt.  
Music: Chant, Mode I; Processionale, French, 15th cent.; adapt. by Thomas Helmore, 1811–1890.*

# Prayer of the Faithful

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2023

**Our response is: "Lord of Love, hear our prayer."**

1. For Pope Francis and all Church leaders ... That they may lead the church so she will be, for God, a noble temple, in which God can show forth His Glory and His Love, we pray. . .
2. For all governmental leaders especially those of our country, ... that they may be like David, a man after God's own heart, who will do all that He commands, we pray...
3. For this faith community of St Matthias...that, like Mary, we may allow God to accomplish His designs of Love and Goodness in our lives, we pray. . .
4. For those who are ill in body, mind or spirit, that, the One who can strengthen them and console us may be active and watchful in our lives, we pray . . .
5. For all who have died.... especially, **Sabit Alley, Raymond J. Betterbid, and Jennifer Marano Coleman**. That God, for whom nothing is impossible, may receive our faithful departed with Mercy and give them entry into His kingdom... we pray. . .
6. For the intentions in the hearts of all those in this assembly (LONG PAUSE) . . . . . we pray. . .

**The presider announces the Mass intention and concludes.**

## Preparation Hymn – My Soul in Stillness Waits

For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits, truly my hope is in you.

1. O Lord of Light, our only hope of glory,  
your radiance shines in all who look to you,  
come, light the hearts of all in dark and shadow.
2. O Spring of Joy, rain down upon our spirits,  
our thirsty hearts are yearning for your Word,  
come, make us whole, be comfort to our hearts.
3. O Root of Life, implant your seed within us,  
and in your advent, draw us all to you,  
our hope reborn in dying and in rising.
4. O Key of Knowledge, guide us in our pilgrimage,  
we ever seek, yet unfulfilled remain,  
open to us the pathway of your peace.
5. Come, let us bow before the God who made us,  
let ev'ry heart be opened to the Lord,  
for we are all the people of his hand.
6. Here we shall meet the Maker of the heavens,  
Creator of the mountains and the seas,  
Lord of the stars, and present to us now.

*Text: Psalm 95 and 'O' Antiphons; Marty Haugen, b.1950, © 1982, GIA Publications, Inc.*

## Communion Hymn – Bread of Life

**Bread of life, hope of the world,  
Jesus Christ, our brother:  
feed us now, give us life,  
lead us to one another.**

1. Be with your people, Lord,  
send us your saving Word:  
Jesus Christ, light of gladness,  
come among us now.

2. Bring to our world of fear  
the truth we long to hear:  
Jesus Christ, hope of ages,  
come to save us now.

\*Verses 1–2, Advent; verses 3–5, Christmas. © 1982, 1987, Bernadette Farrell.  
Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

## Closing Hymn – People Look East

1. People, look east. The time Is Near  
Of The Crowning Of The Year.  
Make Your House Fair As You Are Able,  
Trim The Hearth And Set The Table.  
People, Look East And Sing Today:  
Love, The Guest, Is On The Way.

2. Furrows, Be Glad. Though Earth Is Bare,  
One More Seed Is Planted There:  
Give Up Your Strength The Seed To Nourish,  
That In Course The Flower May Flourish.  
People, Look East And Sing Today:  
Love, The Rose, Is On The Way.

3. Birds, Though You Long Have Ceased To Build,  
Guard The Nest That Must Be Filled.  
Even The Hour When Wings Are Frozen  
God For Fledging Time Has Chosen. People, Look East And Sing Today:  
Love, The Bird, Is On The Way.

4. Stars, Keep The Watch. When Night Is Dim  
One More Light The Bowl Shall Brim,  
Shining Beyond The Frosty Weather,  
Bright As Sun And Moon Together.  
People, Look East And Sing Today:  
Love, The Star, Is On The Way.

5. Angels, Announce With Shouts Of Mirth  
Christ Who Brings New Life To Earth.  
Set Every Peak And Valley Humming  
With The Word, The Lord Is Coming.  
People, Look East And Sing Today:  
Love, The Lord, Is On The Way.

*Text : Eleanor Farjeon, 1881- 1965. Tune- Besancon, French Carol, Oxford University Press*

*Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-621391  
All rights reserved*

## **Responsorial Psalm – Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29**

**For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

The promises of the LORD I will sing forever;  
through all generations my mouth shall proclaim your faithfulness.  
For you have said, "My kindness is established forever";  
in heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness.

"I have made a covenant with my chosen one,  
I have sworn to David my servant:  
Forever will I confirm your posterity  
and establish your throne for all generations."

"He shall say of me, 'You are my father,  
my God, the Rock, my savior.'  
Forever I will maintain my kindness toward him,  
and my covenant with him stands firm."

**For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**