

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2023

### The First Reading

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

When the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

### Canticle 15

*The Song of Mary, Luke 1:46-55*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \*

for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*  
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his  
Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him \*  
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, \*  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*  
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, \*  
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers, \*  
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

## The Second Reading

*Romans 16:25-27*

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith-- to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

### The Gospel Reading

*Luke 1:26-38*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 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. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" 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 will be holy; he will be called Son of God. 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. For nothing will be impossible with God." 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.

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## Announcements

### Birthdays this month

1st: Laura Newsom  
 1st: Lincoln Randell  
 2nd: Connie Fedrizzi  
 2nd: Susan Schug  
 6th: Gloria Akinson  
 6th: Janet Sue Whetzel  
 7th: Isabella Newsom  
 14th: Becky Supercinski  
 21st: Ron Raif  
 26th: Jeff Richardson  
 27th: Don King  
 28th: Kayla Smith  
 31st: John Dawes

## This Week at SMAA

Sunday, December 31, 2023

9:00 am Bible Study  
 10:00 am Morning Prayer

Wednesday, January 3, 2024

Wednesday night fellowship will resume

**Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, after the service**

Church decorating party, preparing the church for the Christmas Eve evening service. Need volunteers to help.

**Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, Evening service**

Christmas Carols will begin at **5:45 PM** and service will begin at **6:00 PM**.

**Mother Tracey Vacation**

Mother Tracey will be out on vacation **December 26<sup>th</sup>-January 1<sup>st</sup>**.

**Church Annual Meeting**

We will be having a potluck lunch after the service on **Sunday, January 21, 2023**. Please bring a side dish to share.

**Bishop Fisher**

The Bishop will be with us on **February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024**. If you are interested being confirmed, please contact Mtr. Tracey.

## Christmas Eve Evening Servers (12/24)

**Acolytes:** Jonathan Roberts, Michael Greathouse, Joshua Martinez

**Cameras & Streaming:** Robert Brown

**Danny's Team:** Laura Buckner

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Frank & Becky Supercinski

**Greeter:** Joe Frank Brown

**Lector:** David Brown

**Ushers:** Jerry Ritchie

**Vestry People:** Susan Schug, Samantha Rauch

**Worship Tech:** Amy Brown

## Prayer Requests

Healing For:

- Andrew McWhorter
- Bill Magee
- The Akinson & Brown Families
- Lorraine, Pete and Margie Litterski

Bereavement For:

- Ray Mastrogiacomo Family

To submit a prayer request, fill out the back of the information sheet in the pew and place it in the offering.

Or, send an email with your request to: [prayer@smaalongview.org](mailto:prayer@smaalongview.org)

**\*\* Emailed prayer requests are received by all who've signed up for the SMAA prayer chain. This community of prayer is committed to holding up our needs and thanksgivings to God whenever they are shared. TO JOIN IN THIS IMPORTANT MINISTRY, JUST SEND A REQUEST TO SMAA@SMAALONGVIEW.ORG ASKING TO BE A PART OF THE PRAYER CHAIN. \*\***

### Stewardship Update

DATE	GIVING	BUDGET	ABOVE/BELOW
11/26/23	\$1,237	\$2,939	-\$1,702
12/03/23	\$5,125	\$2,939	\$2,186
12/10/23	\$1,118	\$2,939	-\$1,821
12/17/23	\$1,336	\$2,939	-\$1,603
<b>YTD TOTALS</b>	<b>\$166,538</b>	<b>\$149,882</b>	<b>\$16,656</b>

## NEXT Sunday's Servers (12/31)

**Acolytes:**

**Cameras & Streaming:** Robert Brown

**Danny's Team:** Laura Buckner

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Frank Supercinski

**Greeter:** Joe Frank Brown

**Lector:** Susan Schug

**Nursery Helper:** Roxanne Brink

**Ushers:** Michael Greathouse

**Vestry People:** Samantha Rauch, Susan Brown

**Worship Tech:** Amy Brown

St. Michael & All Angels' Episcopal Church

The Rev. Tracey F. Carroll

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