

THE INTERNATIONAL PROTESTANT CHURCH OF BRUSSELS

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2020



PRE-SERVICE MUSIC "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen" (Trad. / arr. Rodriguez)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE Prelude VII from "Pièces de clavecin" (J. C. Fischer)

CALL TO WORSHIP

*HYMN (MORNING SONG)

"My Soul Gives Glory to My God"



1 My soul gives glo - ry to my God; my
2 My God has done great things for me: yes,
3 From age to age to all who fear, such
4 Love casts the might - y from their thrones, pro -
5 Praise God, whose lov - ing cov - e - nant sup -



heart pours out its praise. God lift - ed up my
ho - ly is God's name. All peo - ple will de -
mer - cy love im - parts, dis - pens - ing jus - tice
motes the in - se - cure, leaves hun - gry spir - its
ports those in dis - tress, re - mem - ber - ing past



low - li - ness in man - y mar - vel - ous ways.
clare me blessed, and bless - ings they shall claim.
far and near, dis - miss - ing self - ish hearts.
sat - is - fied; the rich seem sud - den - ly poor.
prom - is - es with pres - ent faith - ful - ness.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES and ADVENT PRAYER

God of hope, God of peace, God of joy, and God of love, teach us how to love one another as reflections of your light in the world, through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER

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. Amen.

* HYMN (ANNUNCIATION)

"To a Maid Whose Name was Mary"



1 To a maid whose name was Mar - y, the an - gel Ga - briel came.
2 "For you are high - ly fa - vored by God the Lord of all,
3 But Mar - y was most trou - bled to hear the an - gel's word.
4 "Fear not, for God is with you, and you shall bear a child.
5 "How shall this be?" said Mar - y, "I am not yet a wife."
6 As Mar - y heard the an - gel, she won - dered at his words.



"Fear not," the an - gel told her, "I come to bring good news;
who e - ven now is with you. You are on earth most blest;
What was the an - gel say - ing? It trou - bled her to hear,
His name shall be called Je - sus, God's off - spring from on high.
The an - gel an - swered quick - ly, "The power of the Most High
"Be - hold, I am your hand - maid," she said un - to her God.



good news I come to tell you, good news, I say, good news."
you are most blest, most bless - ed; God chose you, you are blest!"
to hear the an - gel's mes - sage, it trou - bled her to hear.
And he shall reign for - ev - er, for - ev - er reign on high."
will come up - on you short - ly, your child shall be God's child."
"So be it; I am read - y ac - cord - ing to your word."

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

Leviticus 19:1-2, 13-18

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.

You shall not defraud your neighbor; you shall not steal; and you shall not keep for yourself the wages of a laborer until morning. You shall not revile the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind; you shall fear your God: I am the LORD. You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the LORD. You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

SOLO:

“Mary, Did You Know?,” Danielle Tylke, soprano

* GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:26-55

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a young woman named Mary; she was engaged to a man named Joseph, of the house of David. Upon arriving, the angel said to Mary, “Rejoice, highly favored one! God is with you! Blessed are you among women!” Mary was deeply troubled by these words and wondered what the angel’s greeting meant. The angel went on to say to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary. You have found favor with God. You will conceive and bear a son, and give him the name Jesus—‘deliverance.’ His dignity will be great, and he will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the judgment seat of David, his ancestor, to rule over the house of Jacob forever, and his reign will never end.” Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I have never been with a man?” The angel answered her, “the holy spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you— hence the offspring to be born will be called the Holy One of God. Know too that Elizabeth, your kinswoman, has conceived a child in her old age; she who was thought to be infertile is now in her sixth month. Nothing is impossible with God.” Mary said, “I am the servant of God. Let it be done to me as you say.” With that, the angel left her.

Within a few days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said,

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:
you, the Almighty, have done great things for me
and holy is your name.
You have mercy on those who fear you,
from generation to generation.
You have shown strength with your arm,
and scattered the proud in their conceit,
casting down the mighty from their thrones
and lifting up the lowly.
You have filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,
to remember the promise of mercy,
the promise made to our forebears,
to Abraham and his children forever.

And Mary remained with Elizabeth about three months and then returned to her home.

*This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!*

* HYMN (FINLANDIA)

“Sing Out, My Soul”



1. Sing out, my soul, for God has raised and
2. The proud of heart shall be made low and
3. Glo - ry to you, the God of all cre -



1. blessed me And looked on me with kind - ly, lov - ing
2. hum - ble. The gen - tle, poor and hun - gry shall be
3. a - tion. Glo - ry to you, O Christ, the prom - ised



1. eyes. A ser - vant low - ly, yet am I be - lov - ed.
2. filled. O Is - ra - el! God shall up - hold the prom - ise
3. one. Glo - ry to you, O Spir - it of Com - pas - sion.



1. This won - drous God has done great things for me.
2. Made long a - go to you and A - bra - ham.
3. In - spire our hearts to live in ho - li - ness.



1-3. For - ev - er - more, O might - y God of mer - cy,



1-3. I will sing praise, for ho - ly is your name!

Text based on Luke 1:46-55, Janèt Sullivan Whitaker, alt, © 2006, Janèt Sullivan Whitaker.

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* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

Rondeau in g from “Pièces de clavecin” (J. C. Fischer)

Those Serving Today

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| Pastor: | The Rev. Dr. David B. McCarthy |
| Worship Leader | Elizabeth Anderson |
| Pianist/Organist: | Philippe Jonckheere |
| Camera operator: | Étienne De Vries |

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AT IPC

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Sunday, 20 December | Fourth Sunday in Advent worship 11:30. Online Zoom Fellowship Time 13:00. |
| Tuesday, 24 December | Christmas Eve worship is broadcast 17:00 |
| Sunday, 27 December | First Sunday of Christmas worship 11:30. Online Zoom Fellowship Time 13:00. |

Sharing our Treasures

How can we support the International Protestant Church of Brussels?

Please direct *virement* (transfer) deposits to the following accounts:

Fortis: IBAN: BE72 2100 5701 3016 (Pledges and congregational support)

Fortis: IBAN: BE15 2100 5777 1030 (for Missions giving)

BIC: GEBABEBB for both accounts

You may contact Pastor David McCarthy at:

david.b.mccarthy@gmail.com

or by iMessage or Facetime on his GSM at +32 0470 46 14 83.



Our mission project for November and December is Nativitas, a soup kitchen in downtown Brussels. This year because of the Covid pandemic and resulting restrictions, Nativitas has different needs.

They are concentrating more specifically on the homeless. Currently Nativitas hands out free take-away packages consisting of fresh soup, a sandwich, and a drink, to approximately 90 people, five days a week.

What they most urgently need:

- **Ground coffee**
- **Sugar cubes**
- **Individual drinks (small juice boxes, cecemel, soda cans, etc.)**

So this year, we will limit our collection to these 3 items only. Please do not bring fresh food or other non-perishable items. Also, please check the expiration dates!

We realize that your time spent shopping should be kept to a minimum because of the current situation. However, if and when you do go grocery shopping, or if you order on-line, please consider purchasing a few of these items. You may contact us to drop off your donations by appointment.

We are also collecting financial donations for Nativitas during these 2 months, which will be used to help purchase the fresh food used to prepare soup and sandwiches. This is equally important. We thank you for your generosity, knowing that these are difficult times for all. God loves a cheerful giver, and no contribution is too small. Together we can make such a difference.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Nancy Evans :

Nancy nevans@skynet.be 0475.491178