

A snowy forest scene with a girl and a lit street lamp. The girl is standing in the snow, looking towards the lamp. The trees are heavily covered in snow, and the overall atmosphere is serene and magical.

ADVENT IN
NARNIA

8:30 ~ DECEMBER 16, 2018

PRELUDE “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”

arr. Wilbur Held

WELCOME and RELATIONSHIPS of PEACE

OPENING HYMN “Joy to the World” [LW 53, v. 1-3]

OPENING LITURGY

RESPONSE “Joy to the World” [LW 53, v. 4]

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Malachi 3:1-5 [NIV]

¹“I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the Lord Almighty. ²But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap. ³He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, ⁴and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the Lord, as in days gone by, as in former years.

⁵“So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me,” says the Lord Almighty.

R: Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the LORD!

C: Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!

GOSPEL VERSE “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” [verse 3]

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 1:26-38 [NIV]

²⁶In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.” ²⁹Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

³⁴“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?” ³⁵The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷For no word from God will ever fail.” ³⁸“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

P: Alleluia! Christ is coming soon!

C: **He is coming soon indeed! Alleluia!**

STATEMENT of FAITH *based on John 1:1-5, 10-14, 3:16*

HYMN “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child” [LW 57]

SERMON “**MESSENGERS**”

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Father in Heaven:

•*Prayers of Thanksgiving:* Richard and Colleen Verdier for the birth of niece, **Olanna**.

•*Wisdom and Courage:* **Elected Officials and Military.**

HOLY COMMUNION

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

“Sing We Now of Christmas”

arr. Wilbur Held

Organ

“Sing We Now of Christmas”

BENEDICTION

CLOSING RESPONSE “Oh, Thank the Lord and Sing His Praise”

POSTLUDE “Joy to the World”

arr. J. Wayne Kerr

SERMON: *Rev. James Mueller*

LITURGIST: *Rev. Morgan Hamilton*

CONNECT *Mark your calendars!*

WORSHIP

- **Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols | Wednesday, December 19 | 7:00pm**
- **Christmas Eve Worship | Monday, December 24 | 5:00pm, 6:30pm, 8:00pm**
- **Worship Time Change | Sunday, December 30 | 10:00am | No Education Hour**
- **This Is Christ: Upcoming Sermon Series | January 2019**

ADULT

- **Because of Bethlehem: Max Lucado | Adult Faith | Sundays in December**
- **Un-Decorating Day | Sunday, January 6 | After 11am Worship | *Light Lunch provided***

WOMEN

- **Breathe Life Ministries Women's Conference | January 18-19, 2019 | **Register Online****

YOUTH

- **Youth Christmas Party | Sunday, December 23 | 7pm | **Register Online****

The Church Office will be closed Monday, December 24 - Tuesday, January 1

