

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year B

Color: Blue or Purple

Scriptures: [Scripture linked to NRSV at Oremus Bible Browser]

[2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16](#) (*God's promise to David: a lasting throne*)

[Luke 1:46b-55](#) (*The song of Mary*)

[or] [Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26](#) (*David: Your love, O Lord, I will sing forever*)

[Romans 16:25-27](#) (*The mystery of God revealed in Jesus Christ*)

[Luke 1:26-38](#) (*The angel appears to Mary*)

Themes: God's Promise, Revelation in Jesus, Justice, God's Love, Mary

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Hymn Suggestions link to Hymnary.org, a searchable resource with a wealth of information. The tunes listed here are the ones most commonly associated with the texts, and the biblical/thematic references suggest the hymn's association with the morning's scriptures or themes.

[Blest Be the God of Israel](#) (*MERLE'S TUNE*).....2 Samuel, Luke

[Child in the Manger](#) (*BUNESSAN*) Romans, Luke

[Gentle Mary Laid Her Child](#) (*TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM*) Luke

[Hail to the Lord's Anointed](#) (*ELLACOMBE; SHEFFIELD*)2 Samuel, Luke

[Hark! The Herald Angels Sing](#) (*MENDELSSOHN*) Luke

[It Came Upon the Midnight Clear](#) (*CAROL*)2 Samuel, Romans, Luke

[Jesus, the Light of the World](#) (*WE'LL WALK IN THE LIGHT*) Luke

[Joy to the World](#) (*ANTIOCH*)..... Luke

[Love Has Come](#) (*BRING A TORCH*)..... Luke

[My Soul Cries Out \(Canticle\)](#) (*STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN*).....2 Samuel, Luke

[O Come, O Come, Emmanuel](#) (*VENI EMMANUEL*) 2 Samuel

[Of the Father's Love Begotten](#) (*DIVINUM MYSTERIUM*) Romans, Luke

[Once In Royal David's City](#) (*IRBY*).....2 Samuel, Romans, Luke

[What Child is This](#) (*GREENSLEEVES*)..... Psalms, Luke

[Young Mary Lived in Nazareth](#) (*BALLAD OF MARY*) Luke

ANTHEMS

E = Easy, M = Moderate, MD = Moderately Difficult

He Came Down – E Romans
West African Carol/Marty Haugen, arr.
© 1992, GIA Publications, G-3808
SATB, Keyboard, Percussion

Love Came Down at Christmas – MD .. Romans, Luke
Taylor Scott Davis
© 2013, MorningStar Music, MSM-50-1435
SATB, Keyboard (Harp), opt. Orchestra

My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness – E Luke
KINGSFOLD/Chaz Bowers, arr.
© 2019, Augsburg Fortress, 9781506463599
2-Part Mixed (opt. SAB), Piano

Nowell Sing We – M 2 Samuel, Luke
English Carol/Susan T. Nelson, arr.
© 2006, GIA Publications, G-6367
SATB, Keyboard, opt. Handbells, Recorder, Strings

O Magnum Mysterium – MD Luke
Cesar Alejandro Carrillo
© 2000, earthsongs, S-142
SATB, a cappella

O Yule Full of Gladness – M 2 Samuel, Psalms
Norwegian Carol/Carolyn Jennings, arr.
© 1976, Schmitt, Hall & McCreary, 7656
SATB, 2 Flutes

Only a Baby Came – E Luke
Natalie Sleeth/David Giardinieri, arr.
© 2004, Hinshaw Music, HMC-2176
SAB, Piano, opt. Orchestra

Sing We Noel – MD Romans
Pavel Chesnokov/Charles Hirt, arr.
© 1977, Hinshaw Music, HMC-219
SATB divisi, a cappella, opt. Keyboard, Handbells

This Child, This King – ME 2 Samuel, Romans
Daniel Gawthrop
© 1989, Dunstan House, DH9401
SATB, Organ, Harp

The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy – M Luke
West Indies Carol/Valerie Shields, arr.
© 1997, Plymouth Music, 21-20247
SSA, Piano, 2 Flutes, opt. Percussion, Trumpets, Bass

Waltz Carol – MD Luke
Thomas Hewitt Jones
© 2011, Oxford University Press, X 532
SATB, Piano

We'll Dress the House – E 2 Samuel
Alfred Burt/Hawley Ades, arr.
© 1957, Shawnee Press, A-449
SATB, a cappella

– CHILDREN AND YOUTH –

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly – M Romans, Luke
Polish Carol/Ken Berg, arr.
© 2006, Walton Music, WLF119
Unison, Flute, Hand Chimes

The Perfect Rose – ME Luke
John Leavitt
© 1992, Hal Leonard, 8596402
SATB, Piano

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL (Prayers, Poems, Quotes & Liturgies)

"I would like the angels of Heaven to be among us. I would like an abundance of peace. I would like full vessels of charity. I would like rich treasures of mercy. I would like cheerfulness to preside over all. I would like Jesus to be present."

— BRIDID OF IRELAND

"Joy is the infallible sign of the presence of God."

— PIERRE DE CHARDIN

GATHERING PRAYER

O God, Magnificent —
The thrill of hope
for a world in sin and error pining,
we fall upon our knees.

O God, Magnificent,
Who takes the risk of birth —
Come, to un-break the broken world
with a love which shall leave a mark, and heal a scar.

O God, Magnificent —
From the womb a first cry,
a joyful noise is heard,
as a comet tears the sky.

O God, Magnificent —
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Peace on Earth. Peace on Earth. Peace on Earth.

— Carey J. Cannon*

ADVENT WREATH/CANDLELIGHTING

Week 4: The Candle of Love

READING (Psalm 89:1-2a)

I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness
to all generations. I declare that your steadfast
love is established forever.

LITANY

O come, Immanuel, God-with-us.
Come Light. Come Love.
Shine in the shadows.
Brighten your world.
It is with LOVE that we light a candle,
because your love is faithful to all generations.

SONG

**Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas;
star and angels gave the sign.**

— CHRISTINA GEORGINA ROSSETTI, "Love Came Down at Christmas," 1885

CENTERING PRAYER

God — who gives us not only life, not only breath,
but a way to sense the ineffable around us,

Reveal again to us in these days
the depths of mystery,
the mystery kept secret for long ages
now made known in Christ,
which once disclosed, turns us,
like a compass needle magnetized to Truth.

For we know You are not far away,
not distant, but present here.

Help us not mistakenly exclude this knowledge
from life's deliberations in these damaged days,
For You have set eternity in our hearts.
Magnetize us again.

+ + +

"Loving is ultimately the only account one can give of love."

— DAVID STEINDL-RAST

+ + +

PRAYER OF ADVENT

O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

— LATIN, 12th CENTURY
J.M. Neal, translation, 1851
Tune: *VENI EMMANUEL*

RESPONSIVE READING

One: Lead us down from Nazareth.

Many: Lead us down from Galilee.

All: God be with us as we go.

One: Lead us now to Bethlehem.

Many: To the City of David to be counted.

All: God be with us as we go.

One: Lead us now to a stable.

Many: To a crib of revolution.

All: Of revolutionary joy.

+ + +

"God is – all the time – making a space into which his Word incarnate may come."

— ROWAN WILLIAMS

+ + +

BENEDICTION/SENDING

Like a mother who has given birth holds her
child for the night, God is holding us.

Let us go, therefore, our hearts glad, our
tongues rejoicing, our bodies and this
Sabbath, resting secure.

Amen.

*Thanks to Carey J. Cannon for contributing this week's prayers and liturgies.

Warren Howell, Editor