

Pax Christi USA
Weekly Advent prayer service
December 9, 2024, second week of Advent

WELCOME

Opening song: [A Voice Cries Out](#)

Lighting of candles on the Advent wreath

First reading – Genesis 1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty; darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

Then God said, “Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it according to their various kinds.” And it was so. The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds.

And God saw that it was good. And there was evening, and there was morning - the third day. ...

And God said, “Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky.” So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth.” And there was evening, and there was morning- the fifth day.

Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.

So God created humankind in God’s own image, in the image of God God created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground - everything that has the breath of life in it - I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.



God saw all that had been made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning - the sixth day.

The word of Lord

Gospel reading – Luke 1:26-38

A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of 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 greatly troubled by these words and wondered what the angel's greeting meant.

The angel went on to say to her, "Don't be afraid, Mary. You have found favor with God. You'll conceive and bear a son, and give him the name Jesus - 'Deliverance.' His dignity will be great, and he will be called the Only Begotten of God. God will give Jesus 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 for God."

Mary said, "I am the servant of God. Let it be done to me as you say." With that, the angel left her.

The Gospel of our God.



Silent reflection

- *What was your moment of ecological conversion?*
- *How do you and your faith community work together to address environmental challenges and promote ecological sustainability? If you haven't started yet, how can you begin?*

Prayers of the faithful – Our response is, “God of peace, hear our prayer.”

- Please use the chat box on Zoom to share prayers that you want us to lift up over the coming week.

Closing prayer – From the [Laudato Si Movement](#)

Dear God, our Creator,

You revealed your love to us and creation once and for all through the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ. By the grace of Your Creator Spirit, teach us to celebrate our faith in the Incarnation that took place in creation.

Dear Jesus, Savior of creation, we ask that You may be born in us once again as we seek to cultivate hope for our common home. As Your followers, teach us to care for the dignity of all human beings and all creation, now and in the future.

In a season too often marked by overconsumption and excess, let us give thanks and honor the goodness of all your gifts in the natural world. Help us to contemplate the mystery of creation as we celebrate the mystery of incarnation.

We pray for today's victims of global warming, both human and nonhuman. We pray for more ambition in the energy transition, in this country and globally. We pray for our governments to negotiate a global and fair phase-out of fossil fuels.

And, finally, we pray for the courage to be prophets of our time, calling upon our leaders to bear fruits of ecological justice.

Come Emmanuel! Make us ever more hopeful people for a hopeful planet. Let us be part of Your light of hope to the world.

Amen.

Closing song:  [The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came - Christmas Carol Sing Along with Lyrics](#)

"Gabriel's Message" by Stacey Plays Hymns. If you wish to thank her or follow/support her music ministry, you can stream or download her music on any online music platform.

After the service, those who would like may stay on and meet in breakout rooms for about 15 minutes to discuss the reflection and today's Advent questions.



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