

Astoria First United Methodist Church
December 20, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Advent

ORDER OF WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS		Mary Frances
CENTERING MUSIC	<i>“O Come, All Ye Faithful”</i>	Mary Frances UMH#234
WORDS OF WELCOME		Pastor Michael
CALL TO WORSHIP	<i>“He Came Down” (v4)</i>	Lorel Bresko
ADVENT SCRIPTURE	<i>“The Birth of Jesus Foretold”</i>	<i>“Luke 1:26-38”</i>
LIGHTING THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE	<i>Candle of Love</i>	Lorel Bresko
OPENING PRAYER		Pastor Michael
SCRIPTURE READING	<i>Romans 16:25-27</i>	Lorel Bresko
Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.		
SPECIAL MUSIC	<i>“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”</i>	Mary Frances UMH#218

UNISON PRAYER FOR CONFESSION

Lorel Bresko

When our spirits despair and we deny our blessedness, forgive us, O God. When we are proud in the thoughts of our hearts; when our power rests on the oppression of others; when our wealth causes others to go hungry, forgive us, O God. We confess that all too often we hesitate to speak or act when we see people being treated unjustly. Forgive us for how quickly we distance ourselves from others, especially we speculate about another person's worth on what they own, or how they look; on what they say, or how they live, rather than accepting them for who they are—people made in your image. Forgive us when our longing to live simply and with humility is defeated by self-serving desires—for pursuing profits before seeking your will. Teach us and help us to remember our hope lies in the promise of your mercy. Heal us, restore us, forgive us, Lord, we pray, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Lorel Bresko

May the God of peace cleanse you through and through. The promise is that our whole being—spirit, soul and body will be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Rejoice, then, and give thanks as we receive forgiveness and healing in Christ's name. Amen.

HYMN OF PREPARATION

“Come, Thou Long Expected, Jesus”

**Mary Frances
UMH#196**

ADVENT GOSPEL LESSON

“Luke 1:26-38”

Pastor Michael

SERMON

“Nothing is Impossible with God”

Pastor Michael

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Mary Frances

PASTORAL PRAYER

Pastor Michael

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Michael

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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. AMEN

BENEDICTION:

Pastor Michael

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**New Advent worship opportunity via ZOOM starting
Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. through December 22nd**

Christmas Eve Service with Seaside UMC via ZOOM at 7:00 p.m.

**We welcome to our friends from the Warrenton UMC
as they join us for worship.**

We still need volunteers for liturgist each week.

Please call Sue Hicks or Mary Frances Gunn if you wish to help.

If you want to provide special music – let Mary Frances know.

We now have recordings of the worship services available as a link.
