

# GARROWBYBENEFICE

## Advent 4: A Service of the Word



## *Hymn O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Mary said “Hear am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word”

Mary committed herself willingly to co-operate with Gods plan. This is an important message for us. She was not overwhelmed and made to do what God wanted; but rather she chose to co-operate. She was a willing servant – Hear am I, the servant of the Lord. God allowed her freedom and she consented positively – let it be to me according to your word.

Mary’s readiness to serve God in His way can be an inspiration for us. She was there at the end when it seemed hopeless.

Today, especially, God needs servants who can be relied upon to be there when it counts in loyalty to Christ, and that includes loyalty to his body, the church.

## *Hymn Tell out, my soul*

### **Greeting**

We meet in the name of God:  
God the Father,  
God the Son,  
God the Spirit:

**All God is one.**

The Lord be with you

**All And also with you.**

Come let us serve the Lord with Gladness

**All And come before his presence with singing**

Proclaim with me the greatness of the Lord

**All Let us exalt his name forever**

### **Confession**

Heavenly Father,  
you exalted the humble and meek:  
give us humble and contrite hearts.  
Lord, have mercy.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus,  
you grew towards birth in the Virgin's womb:  
be planted also in our hearts and lives.  
Christ, have mercy.

**All Christ, have mercy.**

Holy Spirit,  
you overshadowed Mary,  
that she might become the God-bearer:  
fill us with your heavenly gifts.  
Lord, have mercy.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

## **Absolution**

Almighty God,  
Who in Jesus Christ has given us  
A kingdom that cannot be destroyed,  
Forgive you your sins,  
Open your eyes to God's truth,  
Strengthen you to do God's will  
And give you the joy of his kingdom,  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

## **Lighting of the Advent Ring**

Lord Jesus, light of the world,  
blessed is Gabriel, who brought good news;  
blessed is Mary, your mother and ours.  
Bless your Church preparing for Christmas;  
and bless us your children, who long for your coming.

**All Amen.**

## **Collect**

Eternal God,  
As Mary waited for the birth of your Son,  
So we wait for his coming in glory;  
Bring us through the birth pangs of this present age  
To see, with her, our great salvation  
In Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **A Reading from the Old Testament: Isaiah 7:10-16**

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.'

But Ahaz said, 'I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said, 'Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, for before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste.'

### **Song: *Be Born in Me***

## **Gospel Reading – Matthew 1:18-25**

### **All Glory to you O Lord**

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

This is the gospel of the Lord

### **All Praise to you O Christ**

## **Sermon**

## ***Hymn; The Angel Gabriel***

### **Creed**

Let us declare our faith in God.

**All We believe in God the Father,  
From whom every family  
In heaven and on earth is named.  
We believe in God the Son,  
Who lives in our hearts through faith,  
And fills us with his love.  
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
Who strengthens us  
With power from on high.  
We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

### **Peace**

Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you

**All And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

### **Intercessions (ending with)**

**All The Lords' 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,  
The power and the glory,  
For ever and ever.  
Amen.**

With love and compassion,  
**All Come, Lord Jesus.**

With judgement and mercy,  
**All Come, Lord Jesus..**

In power and glory,  
**All Come, Lord Jesus.**

In wisdom and truth,  
**All Come, Lord Jesus.**

## **Blessing**

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,  
scatter the darkness from before your path,  
And make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
Be upon you and upon all those whom you love,  
This Advent and for ever.

**All Amen**

As we await our coming Saviour,  
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
In the name of Christ.

**All Amen**

***Song Mary did you know***