

## MID-DAY PRAYER: VOICES OF ADVENT SESSION 4

(adapted from ACC Seasonal Daily Prayer for Advent)

Restore us, O Creator of the stars of night;  
**show us the light of your countenance,  
and we shall be saved.**

Will you not give us life again,  
**so that your people may rejoice in you?**

Show us your mercy, O God,  
**and grant us your salvation.**

Blessed is the Christ who comes in your name!  
**Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.**

### Canticle: Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55)

**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
for you, Lord, have looked with favour on  
your lowly servant.**

**From this day all generations will call me  
blessed: you, the Almighty, have done great  
things for me  
and holy is your name.**

**You have mercy on those who fear you,  
from generation to generation.**

**You have shown strength with your arm  
and scattered the proud in their conceit,  
casting down the mighty from their thrones  
and lifting up the lowly.**

**You have filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.**

**You have come to the aid of your servant  
Israel, to remember your promise of mercy,**

**the promise made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and Sarah and their children  
for ever.**

*Glory to God, Source of all being, eternal Word  
and Holy Spirit:*

**as it was in the beginning, is now and will  
be for ever. Amen.**

## THE READING

*Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church: **Thanks  
be to God.***

### LUKE 1:26-38

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' 29 But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30 The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. 31 And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. 33 He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' 34 Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' 35 The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. 36 And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God.' 38 Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

## LITANY

*Watchful at all times, let us pray to God in the spirit of expectation held by Mary and Joseph, saying "**hear and have mercy**":*

God, our Maker and Redeemer, fill the earth with justice and compassion.  
God of Mary and Joseph,  
**hear and have mercy.**

Establish righteousness in the nations.  
God of Mary and Joseph,  
**hear and have mercy.**

Bind up the broken-hearted, restore the sick and  
raise up all who have fallen.  
God of Mary and Joseph,  
**hear and have mercy.**

Shine the light of Christ on all who live in  
darkness and the shadow of death.  
God of Mary and Joseph,  
**hear and have mercy.**

Empower us, with all the saints in light, to be  
your witnesses in the world.  
God of Mary and Joseph,  
**hear and have mercy.**

### **COLLECT**

O God of Elizabeth and Mary, you visited your  
servants with news of the world's  
redemption in the coming of the Saviour. Make  
our hearts leap with joy and fill our  
mouths with songs of praise, so that we may  
announce glad tidings of peace and  
welcome the Christ in our midst. **Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*Awaiting his coming in glory  
and gathering our prayers and praises into one,  
let us pray as our Saviour taught us,*

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

May Christ, when he comes, find us watching  
and waiting. **Amen.**