

*Gathering Table*  
*a Faith Community*  
*in the Anglican Church of Canada*



**Third Sunday of Advent – Joy**

.Greetings In The Name Of The Risen Lord !'

*Been - Sa - gen, Jem na do waky gan ning*

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a Faith Community  
in the Anglican Church of Canada

**Rector and Preacher:** Rev. Ann Camber  
**Honorary Assistant:** Rev. Gail Clifton  
**Officiant and Celebrant:** Archdeacon Deborah Kraft  
Thunder Bay-North Shore Deanery - TBPS Chaplain  
**Lay Reader:** Kim Bienvenue  
**Lectors:** Jim Sutton and Sheila Chisholm  
**Music:** Ted and Donna Hamill and Singers  
**Greeters:** Audrey Love and Neil Love  
**Eucharistic Assistants:**  
Kim Bienvenue, Richard Pepper  
**Altar Guild:** Rose Jardine

**Third Sunday of Advent - Joy**

December 17<sup>th</sup> , 2023

10:00 a.m.

**WELCOME TO GATHERING TABLE**

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*For thousands of years, First Nations people have walked on this land; their relationship with the land is at the centre of life and spirituality. We are gathered as treaty people on the traditional territory of the Anishnaabeg of the Fort William First Nation and acknowledge this people's stewardship of this land through the ages.*

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted.

*Isaiah 61.1*

### ***Lighting of the Advent Candle***

The Beaudry Family are lighting the Advent Candles today.

Reader 1: When God's people were surrounded by hardship, suffering, and grief, Isaiah proclaimed,

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit (Isaiah 61:1-3a).

Reader 2: We come today as people who are also surrounded by suffering and grief. And yet, the Spirit hovers among us, tending and anointing, inspiring freedom where there is captivity, declaring blessing in places the world has cursed, and igniting fierce joy where mourning and heartache prevail.

**Congregation: We wait as people who experience hardship and pain, yet we are called to witness to**

**the persistent joy that sustains our life as God's people.**

Reader 1: We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, just peace, and fierce joy. May our lives shine with the fierce, tenacious joy of the Light who lives in our hearts as we wait and work for the coming of God's kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

*Light three candles of the Advent wreath. If your Advent wreath includes a pink or rose candle, light that candle today.*

Music during lighting of three candles:

**Lord, Hear Our Prayer**

**Opening Hymn: CP 113 (V4 omitted)  
Come, O Lord, And Set Us Free**

**Gathering of the Community** *BAS Page 185*

The Lord be with you  
**And also with you.**

Celebrant: Almighty God,

**to you all hearts are open, all desires known,  
and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the  
thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your  
Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and  
worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ  
our Lord. Amen.**

## **Collect Of The Day**

*Celebrant:* God of power and mercy, you call us once again to celebrate the coming of your Son. Remove those things which hinder love of you, that when he comes, he may find us waiting in awe and wonder for him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *All: Amen.*

Children's Time with The Venerable Deborah Kraft

## **The Proclamation of the Word**

### **The First Reading is from the Book of Isaiah**

#### **Isaiah 61: 1 – 4, 8 - 11**

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion - to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the

nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

This is the Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

Music:        **Magnificat**

***Based on: Luke 1: 46 – 55        Canticle 18***

**Second Reading is from The First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians**

1 Thessalonians 5: 16 - 21

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

This is the Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to  
John

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

**John 1: 6 – 8, 19 - 28**

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

The Gospel of Christ  
**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sermon:      **Rev. Ann Camber**

*A Time of Silent Reflection*

**The Apostles' Creed –**

*BAS Page 189*

Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under  
Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was  
buried. He descended to the dead. On the third  
day he rose again. He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the  
dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic  
Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness  
of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life  
everlasting. Amen.**

**Intercessions and Thanksgivings**

**Prayers of the People**

*Lay Reader*

**Advent Litany #12**

*BAS Page 119*

(In joyful expectation let us pray to our Saviour and Redeemer, saying, “Lord Jesus, come soon!”)

O Wisdom, from the mouth of the Most High, you reign over all things to the ends of the earth: come and teach us how to live.

***Lord Jesus, come soon!***



O Lord, and head of the house of Israel, you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and you gave the law on Sinai: come with outstretched arm and ransom us.

***Lord Jesus, come soon!***

O Branch of Jesse, standing as a sign among the nations, all kings will keep silence before you and all peoples will summon you to their aid: come, set us free and delay no more.

***Lord Jesus, come soon!***

O Key of David and sceptre of the house of Israel, you open and none can shut; you shut and none can open: come and free the captives from prison.

***Lord Jesus, come soon!***

O Morning Star, splendour of the light eternal and bright Sun of righteousness: come and enlighten all who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

***Lord Jesus, come soon!***

O King of the nations, you alone can fulfil their desires: Cornerstone, you make opposing nations one: come and save the creature you fashioned from clay.

***Lord Jesus, come soon!***

O Emmanuel, hope of the nations and their Saviour: come and save us, Lord our God.

***Lord Jesus, come soon!***

**The Confession and Absolution –**

*BAS Page 191*

Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites us to his table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **The Peace**

The Peace of the Lord be always with you  
**And also with you**

Offertory: **Savior Of The Nations, Come**

### **Prayer over the Gifts**

Celebrant: God of hope, renew in us the joy of your salvation and make us a living sacrifice to you, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **All: Amen**

## **Receiving Holy Communion**

This is the table of Christ made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. So come, whether you have much faith or little, have tried to follow or afraid you have failed. Come because it is Christ's will that those who want to meet him, might meet him here. Our tradition says that to receive any part of the Eucharist is to receive the full grace of the Sacrament.

## **The Celebration of the Eucharist**

**Eucharistic Prayer # 3 –**

*BAS Page 198*

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

***All:* And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Lift up your hearts.

***All:* We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***All:* It is right to give our thanks and praise**

*Celebrant:* Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, who in the fullness of time came among us in our flesh, and opened to us the way of salvation. Now we watch for the day when he will come again in power and great triumph to judge this world, that we, without shame or fear, may rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory

of your name.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord  
God of power and might  
Heaven and earth are  
full of Your glory  
Hosanna in the highest  
Hosanna in the highest  
*Blessed is He who comes  
in the name of the Lord*  
Hosanna in the highest  
Hosanna in the highest**

*Patrick Schlabs*

*Celebrant:* We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your son.

For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you. he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; And when

he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Whenever you drink it,  
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore, Father, according to his command,

**All: we remember his death,  
we proclaim his resurrection,  
we await his coming in glory;**

and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and author of our salvation;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

**All: Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

*BAS page 211*

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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.**

## **The Breaking of the Bread #5**

*BAS Page 212*

*Celebrant:* God of promise, you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.

***All:* Happy are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.**

*Celebrant:* The gifts of God for the People of God.

***All:* Thanks be to God.**

## **Communion:**

### **AGNUS DEI**

Lamb of God you take away  
the sins of the world  
have mercy on us

Lamb of God you take away  
the sins of the world

have mercy on us

Lamb of God you take away  
the sins of the world  
grant - us peace

Communion Hymns:

**CP 588      Come, Now O Prince Of Peace**  
**CP 132      Of Eternal Love Begotten**  
*(Vs 3 & 5 omitted)*  
**Come, O Redeemer, Come**

**Prayer After Communion**

Celebrant: Merciful God, may this eucharist free us from our sins, fill us with unending joy, and prepare us for the birthday of our Saviour. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who is Lord now and for ever. **All: Amen.**

Celebrant: All your works praise you, O Lord.

**All:      And your faithful servants bless you.**  
**Gracious God we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. May we, who share his body, live his risen life; we, who drink his cup, bring life to others; we, who the Spirit lights, give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so that we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Blessing: **Rev. Ann**

*A Joyful Benediction:* Be people of joy. Let joy live in your heart and share the joy of Christ with all you meet. Share joy by seeing the good in each other. Share joy by remembering good times and hoping for good times to come. Share joy by praying for our world. In this Advent season, we need to see, feel, and share joy. As you go out into the wonder of God's creations, share joy, peace, and hope with those you meet. *All: Amen.*

### **Announcements:**

Closing Music:      **Come To Us**      *Advent*

**Dismissal:** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Alleluia ! Alleluia ! Alleluia !**

### **Readings for the Fourth Sunday of Advent**

2 Samuel 7: 1 – 11 ..

Canticle 18 (Luke 1: 47 – 55)

Romans 16: 25 – 27

Luke 1: 26 - 38

### **Anglican Cycle of Prayer Please Pray for:**

The Anglican Church of Papua

New Guinea

### **Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Please pray for:**

**St. James', Goulais River,** The Ven. Dr. Jay Koyle

The Rev. Dr. Bill Steadman (Hon.), The Rev. Thomas

Ferris (Deacon Assoc.)

### **Our Parish Cycle of Prayer: Please pray for our**

**own church members:** Bruce and Georgina Adderley,

Roberta Adderley, Angela Alberta and Ava, Katelin



Anderson, Ryan Thrasher, Brooke, Scarlett, Olivia, and Arya, Margaret Aris, Darlene Armstrong, Errol Atkinson, Sabata Baya, Ellen Beaudry and Clint, Richard and Lesley BeauParlant, Wendy Bell, Ellie Bennett , Kerri and Shane Bernardi, and Samuel, Sydney Bernardi, Kim Bienvenue, Adrian Boissoneau, Jim Bolt, Margaret Boone.

**Please Pray For:** Our young people in Junior High School, High School, College and University who are struggling academically, social and mentally, as well as with understanding their own identities.

A grace note from [www.thunderbay-northshoreanglicans.com](http://www.thunderbay-northshoreanglicans.com)

Joy is a fruit of the Holy Spirit!

### **The Cold Weather is Here**

Please make sure that if you are the last to leave, that you shut the doors in the different areas of the church and hall to help save money on heating. *Thanks David Reid*

### **Christmas is coming.**

See the **World of Gifts Guide**, on the website or the insert in the Anglican Journal. For a unique meaningful gift, you can order seeds for farmers, livestock and contribute to projects worldwide, etc. You can order

**Christmas cards.** Sign up for a **daily Advent reflection.** For further information go to [www.pwrdf.org](http://www.pwrdf.org)  
Linda Rintamaki (rep)

Scents, kitchen, allergies

**For the well-being of us all, a few reminders:**



*Please do not wear scents (perfume, cologne, hairspray etc.) because exposure to them can adversely affect a person's health, including headaches, shortness of breath, nausea and fatigue. After using the kitchen, please ensure that all surfaces are cleaned and sanitized and the floor is swept of any mouse-attracting crumbs. Some of us have life-threatening allergies to nuts, so please do not bring food containing nuts into the building. Sealed items for the Food Cupboard are exempt.*

### **We Welcome Your Prayer Requests:**

If you have any needs or concerns that you would like placed on the Gathering Table prayer chain, please email the request to [prayerchain@gatheringtable.ca](mailto:prayerchain@gatheringtable.ca). If you do not have access to email, please call the office or Sheila Chisholm at 787-0465 and we will get it sent out for you.

**Our Daily Bread** is available at the back of the church  
Pick up a copy today for **Dec. Jan. Feb.**

### **Reminder about**

**Christmas Visitations Communion:** Let Rev. Ann know if someone you know would like a visit. please call 807-285-9446 or email her at: [rector@gatheringtable.ca](mailto:rector@gatheringtable.ca)



**2024 Envelopes** are now available at the back  
A note about offerings: all information is on the shelves at the back of the Church. If you used the numbered offering envelopes in 2023 you will find a personalized box of 2024 envelopes for your use. If you wish to use weekly offering envelopes you may take an unassigned box and add your

name to the list beside the box number. If you would like to contribute using the Electronic Offering Program\*, which we recommend, these forms are also available at the back of the Church fill in the information and turn it into the office. If you are already using EOP you may amend your offerings using the same form. E-transfers can also be made to Gathering Table by using: [office@gatheringtable.ca](mailto:office@gatheringtable.ca) and use “church” as your security answer. If you require any assistance, please consult a Warden. The EOP is administered by the Diocese and is a pre-authorized payment plan offering a steady flow of funds to Gathering Table. It takes the worry about “catching up” if you are away or cannot attend for any reason.

**Sunday Sermons:** Sunday service can be viewed on the Gathering Table website <http://gatheringtable.ca> and on the Gathering Table Facebook page. The whole service will be live streamed at 10 a.m. Sunday at the link <http://gatheringtable.ca> **Please Note** You may be visible on the online stream

**Church Calendars Available Today in the Parish Hall. See Roberta** Please let the office know, if you would like a 2024 Church Calendar, 807-345-6898 or [office@gatheringtable.ca](mailto:office@gatheringtable.ca) Calendars are \$6.00 each

## **EVENTS AT GATHERING TABLE**

Each September groups wishing to book the use of the

hall, kitchen has to fill in the “Booking Request Form” each year for your groups’ activities. Please contact the office to request the form. [office@gatheringtable.ca](mailto:office@gatheringtable.ca)  
Or call 807-345-6898

### **Calendar of Events**

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Dec. 17 <sup>th</sup> | Steve Bell Concert – Redwood Church 7 p.m.        |
| Dec. 18 <sup>th</sup> | Flower Memorials for Christmas due today          |
| Dec. 24 <sup>th</sup> | Family Friendly Service – 10 a.m.                 |
| Dec. 24 <sup>th</sup> | Christmas Eve service 7 p.m.                      |
| Dec. 25 <sup>th</sup> | Christmas Day service – 10 a.m.                   |
| Dec. 29 <sup>th</sup> | Food Cupboard Prep                                |
| Dec. 31 <sup>st</sup> | Food Cupboard<br>Carols and Readings at 10 a.m.   |
| Jan. 12 <sup>th</sup> | Food Cupboard Prep                                |
| Jan. 13 <sup>th</sup> | Taking down the Christmas Decorations             |
| Jan. 14 <sup>th</sup> | Food Cupboard                                     |
| Jan. 16 <sup>th</sup> | Camp Gitchigomee Meeting St. Thomas Church 7 p.m. |
| Jan. 23 <sup>rd</sup> | Parish Council Advisory (PAC) Zoom 7 p.m.         |
| Jan. 26 <sup>th</sup> | Food Cupboard Prep                                |
| Jan. 27 <sup>th</sup> | Camp Gitchigomee Appreciation Dinner              |
| Jan. 28 <sup>th</sup> | Food Cupboard                                     |
| Feb. 6 <sup>th</sup>  | Altar Guild Meeting 3 p.m.                        |
| Apr. 18 <sup>th</sup> | Camp Gitchigomee 2 Bit Auction                    |
| Apr. 19 <sup>th</sup> | Mission to Seafarers Dinner, save the date        |

**2024 Parishioner Parking Passes** are available at the office Tues. – Thurs. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.:  
Friday 8 a.m. – 12 noon

**PWRDF:** The 2023 **World of Gifts** guide arrived with

your October Anglican Journal. This is another opportunity for you to alleviate poverty, promote sustainability and support communities in need in Canada and around the world. There are 29 impactful gifts to give this year; some familiar and many new. Use the order form in the guide, or shop in the online store 24/7 at [www.pwrdf.org](http://www.pwrdf.org)



Join us for our Parish Luncheon following the Service Today.



### **Christmas is Coming...**

Would you like to place flowers in the church during the four weeks of Advent, or for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day? Please talk to the ladies of the Altar Guild, or take an envelope from the back of the church. The last day to get your message in the bulletin for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day is December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

### **Next Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

We will have a special service, followed by some fun activities in the Parish Hall for everyone, cookie decorating, Christmas ornaments to be decorated, and lots of treats.



Gathering Table

228 Pearl Street, Thunder Bay, Ontario P7B 1E4

Email: [office@gatheringtable.ca](mailto:office@gatheringtable.ca)

Web: <http://gatheringtable.ca>

Office: 345-6898

Hall: 345-6088

**Office Hours:**

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Office Administrator: Roberta Wolfe

Treasurer: Sharon Corston: Friday from 8 a.m. to noon –

Pastor: Rev. Ann Camber, M.Div.

Phone: 807-251-7503 Email: [rector@gatheringtable.ca](mailto:rector@gatheringtable.ca)

Honorary Assistant: The Rev. Gail M. Clifton, M.Div.

Phone: 768-9865 Email: [gailx2@shaw.ca](mailto:gailx2@shaw.ca)

**Lay Readers:**

Frances Bennett-Sutton, Rose Jardine, Brenda O'Neill,

Richard Pepper, Jim Sutton, Kim Bienvenue,

Rector's Warden: David Reid

People's Warden: Jim Sutton

Deputy People's Warden: Sheila Chisholm

Music Director: Pianist Donna Hamill

Wifi Guest Password at Gathering Table > GTGuest1

**Archbishop Anne's Motto for 2023**

*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.” Luke 4: 18 - 19*