



*December 24, 2017*

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD**

GATHERING MUSIC: Christmas Carol Hymn-Sing

CHRIST LIGHT: Acolyte: Mia Carvalho

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS; SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH**

Lighting of the Advent Candle: **Fourth** Sunday of Advent: Love

One: Hope is a light given by God to every Child of God.

**All: We light the candle of Hope as we remember Christ's gift.**

(Light the candle of Hope)

One: The flame of Peace, just as the Peace of Christ, is the true order of life.

**All: We light the candle of Peace as we remember to live in Christ's Peace.**

(Light the candle of Peace)

One: Joy is the celebration given by God through the light of the world.

**All: Let us dance and sing and shout for joy. Christ is coming again!**

(Light the candle of Joy)

One: Love is the wick given by God that is central to the life itself.

**All: Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.**

**Love never fails.** (Light the candle of Love)

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand in body or Spirit.)

One: Come apart to this place of rest and renewal;

**Many: Let our spirits rejoice in the presence of God.**

One: We will sing of God's steadfast love for all people.

**Many: We will proclaim God's faithfulness to all generations.**

One: God looks with favor on the humble and lowly.

**Many: God's covenant does not focus on rank or position.**

One: Blessed are those who walk in God's light.

**Many: Blessed are all who say 'yes' to God's call.**

\*HYMN: #107 – Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn

\*INVOCATION

**God of unseen angels and unheard greetings, whose love for humankind continues even when we are inattentive, favor us now with a message we cannot ignore.**

**Reign among us that we may respond to your call and serve with faithfulness in the ways you envision for us. Make us instruments of your peace. Amen.**

\***SONG OF PRAISE #759** Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three-in-One; As it is in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

AN ADVENT READING

CHOIR ANTHEM "The Coming of the Lord" by Pepper Choplin

**WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS**

OFFERTORY INVITATION

God gives us responsibilities in the church and the world to carry good news, to build and not destroy, to feed the hungry and house the homeless, to be faithful in all things. Our offerings are one sign of faithfulness and obedience.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

\*DOXOLOGY #780 - Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Our best we give to you, loving God, for you have given your best to us in the mystery of the Incarnation. May our offerings proclaim Jesus in ways that will be received with joy. Send your Word to the world in this season through our caring service. May we share it with one another in ways that help us all to grow. We are your servants. The gifts we dedicate here now are already yours. Thank you for all the ways you have provided for us. Amen.**

*SPECIAL MUSIC      "Away in a Manger"      Children's Choir*

**WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER**

PASTORAL PRAYER followed by THE LORD'S 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory forever. Amen.**

\*HYMN: #123 – Mary, Woman of the Promise

**THE LITTLE PAGEANT**

The music below is disbursed throughout the pageant.  
We invite you to remain seated as you sing along with us.

\*HYMN: #138 - Jesus, Our Brother, Strong and Good

Jesus, our brother, strong and good. Was humbly born in a stable rude,  
And the friendly beasts around him stood, Jesus, our brother, strong and good.

HYMN *"O Little Town of Bethlehem"*

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth.  
Your voices raise to God in praise; and peace to all on earth!

HYMN *"Away in a Manger"*

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

HYMN *"Angels from the Realms of Glory"*

Angels from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story Now proclaim Messiah's birth.

**Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

Shepherds, in the field abiding, Watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing; Yonder shines the infant light:

**Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

HYMN "We Three Kings"

We three kings of Orient are bearing gifts we traverse afar;  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

**O, Star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright.**

**Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy Perfect Light.**

These three gifts we offer to you: gold and myrrh and frankincense, too.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! God's love for us born anew!

**O, Star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright.**

**Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy Perfect Light.**

**WE ARE SENT OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE A LOVING, SERVING GOD**

CHRISTMAS LITANY

One: In a little town, known for nothing much, God's holy child was born.  
By the faint light of the moon, Mary and Joseph found their way.

**All: Welcome the Light!**

One: Shown by a courtyard fire to the open stable door.  
In the shadowy stable stall, Joseph kindled a lamp.

**All: Welcome the Light!**

One: There Mary gave birth to Jesus, called God-With-Us.

Angels opened the doors of heaven singing, "Glory to God in the heights!"

**All: Welcome the Light!**

One: Shepherds saw the sky ablaze, left their sheep and came to see.  
In the darkest winter night, God set a brilliant star.

**All: Welcome the Light!**

One: Magi from the East divined God's shining sign.

And on this Christmas night with joy, we greet the Child.

**All: Welcome the Light!**

\*HYMN Go Tell it on the Mountain

While shepherds kept their watching Over silent flocks by night,  
Behold throughout the heavens, There shone a holy light:  
Go, Tell It On The Mountain, Over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, Tell It On The Mountain That Jesus Christ is born.

Down in a lowly manger Our humble Christ was born  
And God send us salvation, That blessed Christmas morn:  
Go, Tell It On The Mountain, Over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, Tell It On The Mountain That Jesus Christ is born.

BENEDICTION The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

*\*Indicates all that are able may stand.*

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH

DEACONS OF THE MONTH

LAY READER

USHERS

GREETER(s)

SENIOR PASTOR AND TEACHER

MUSIC DIRECTOR

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR

ACCOMPANIST/ORGANIST

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Members of the Congregation

Ken Gould and Julie Turner

Cyndi Gray

Brian Williams, Pat Cefaly, Margie Ives and Michael Bryan

Maury Davidson

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

Susan Handy

Christine Lehoullier

Chris Ferrin

Hannah Collier