

Sunday December 22, 2024,
Advent Four
We Gather to Celebrate God's Presence

Welcome
Family Life and Work
Family Celebrations
Lighting of the Christ Candle:
Acknowledgement of the Land:

Advent Candle Lighting: Hope is a Star

VU 7 vs 4

**Hope is a star that shines in the night,
leading us on till the morning is bright.**

**Love is a flame that burns in our heart,
Jesus has come and will never depart.**

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we come with love as a community of faith
We Watch, we wait, we wonder.

When we feel God's unfailing love, we are able to give love to – and receive it from – our families, our friends, our community of faith, and, yes, even those we find hard to love. There is enough love for all.

We experience God's love in the greatest gift for all of us, in the birth of Jesus, who is bringing love to the world.

As we light the fourth candle in our wreath, we breathe in the Spirit of love. Let us pray.

God of love, we give thanks for your unfailing love and for the gift of love in the human relationships that give our lives meaning. May we come to the manger filled with your infinite love Amen.

Introit: See Amid the Winter's snow

VU 76 vs 1

**See amid the winter's snow,
born for us on earth below,
see, the tender Lamb appears,
promised from eternal years.**

**Hail, thou ever-blessed morn;
hail, redemption's happy dawn;
sing through all Jerusalem,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.**

Call to Worship:

This is the season of waiting; waiting for the coming of the Christ-Child.

This is the time of expectation; of looking forward in hope.

This is the season of excitement; of longing for all creation to be made whole.

We are here, O God, in this season, knowing that your promise is about to be fulfilled.

Let us worship God who brings us hope, peace, joy, and love. Let us speak once more the words He gave us; words that still speak to us and for us:

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

**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
and the power and the glory for ever and ever. Amen**

Opening Hymn: It Came upon the Midnight Clear

VU 44 vs 1,2,4

- 1 It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold,
'Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heaven's all-gracious King!'
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.**

- 2 Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled;
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.**

**4 For, lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendours fling,
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing.**

First Reading: Micah 5: 2-5a

Children's Time:

Gospel Reading: Luke 1: 39-55

Gradual Hymn: Down to Earth, as a Dove

VU 42

**1 Down to earth, as a dove, came to dwell holy love:
Jesus Christ from above
bringing great salvation meant for every nation.
Let us sing, sing, sing,
dance and spring, spring, spring;
Christ is here, ever near!
Gloria in excelsis.**

**2 This is love come to light, now is fear put to flight.
God defeats darkest night,
giving for our sorrows hope of new tomorrows. R**

**3 Christ the Lord comes to feed hungry souls in their need;
in the house there is bread:
Jesus in a stable, in the church a table. R**

We Listen

Meditation:

We Respond

Musical Offering: Happy Christmas (War is Over)

Offertory: All Poor Ones and Humble

VU 68 vs 1

**1 All poor ones and humble and all those who stumble,
come hastening, and feel not afraid;**

**for Jesus, our treasure, with love past all measure,
in lowly poor manger was laid.
Though wise men who found him
laid rich gifts around him,
yet oxen they gave him their hay,
and Jesus in beauty accepted their duty;
contented in manger he lay.**

**Then haste we to show him the praises we owe him;
our service he ne'er can despise;
whose love still is able to show us that stable,
where softly in manger he lies.**

Offertory/Prayer of Dedication:

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession:

Closing Hymn: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

VU 48

**1 Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the newborn King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!'
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'**

**Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the newborn King!'**

**2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail, the incarnate deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!**

**Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the newborn King!'**

3 Hail, the heavenborn Prince of Peace!

**Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.**

**Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the newborn King!**

Benedictions and Commissioning

Choral Benediction: Go Now in Peace

VU 964

**Go now in peace, go now in peace,
May the love of God surround you everywhere,
Everywhere you may go.**