

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT
December 23, 2018
11:00 A.M.

Together in Christ, Reaching Beyond Our Doors.

GATHERING TO PRAISE

PRELUDE "Intermezzo" Joseph Rheinberger

INTROIT "Rise Up! Go Tell It!" arr. Cathy Moklebust
"Joy to the World" arr. John A. Behnke
Central Bells

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, GETTING ACQUAINTED

Please take a moment to fill out the Attendance Card as it is passed.

*PASSING THE PEACE OF THE PRINCE OF PEACE

This is God's house – a place of peace where we befriend one another in the name of Christ. Greet those around you as a sign of God's peace and Christ's friendship.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Hope unbelievable, Peace unimaginable, Joy indescribable, Love inconceivable came down to earth!

All: We gather excitedly, We stand expectantly, We wait patiently for Christ to come again!

*HYMN OF PRAISE "Come, thou Long-Expected Jesus" No. 196

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH The Coffin Family

Leader: Last Sunday we lit the candle of joy, remembering the everlasting gladness which comes in Christ, the candle of peace and God's vision of a nonviolent world for all people, and the candle of hope and promises fulfilled in Jesus. Today we light the candle of love and remember that this world was created with love and will end with love. God's love pervades all of life. From birth to death, suffering to joy, strangers to friends, God's love is there.

All: On this day we remember God is love.

A TIME TO CELEBRATE OUR CHILDREN

"Where Children Belong" (congregation sings)

This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshipping throng.

Water, God's Word, bread and cup, prayer, and song: This is where children belong. This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshipping throng. Water, God's Word, bread and cup, prayer, and song: This is where children belong.

CONNECTING WITH GOD IN PRAYER

PRAYER HYMN "Love Came Down at Christmas" No. 242

INTERCESSORY PRAYER IN THE SPIRIT OF MARY

One: In the face of the Gospel, let us ask God for a good Christmas:

ALL: ...that no powerful nation should unfairly tax the poor

or uproot them;

...that no unmarried mother should be put away in disgrace;

...that no door will be shut on those who need to find it open;

**...that barbed wire and angry soldiers may not be found
in Bethlehem;**

**...that wise men and wise women might appear in Yemen, the Congo, North Korea,
Russia and in our land;**

...that children may be shielded from those who would abuse them;

...that this Advent, worship may become a manger,

And the church a stable,

And the rumor become a reality that Christ has come among us.

This we pray in Jesus' name. AMEN.

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

No. 895

**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, forever. Amen.**

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Blessed Be That Maid Mary"

Stephen Main

*Blessed be that maid Mary, born he was of her body, very God e'er time began, bom in time the son of man. Eya Jesu hodie natus est de virgine. Oh
Jesu, be born in us today. Sweet and blissful was the song chanted of the angel throng: "Peace on earth, hallelujah in excelsis Gloria." In a manger,
Jesu lay and lullayed was, born to die upon a tree, pro peccante homine. Make we merry on this fest, in quo Christus natus est, on this Child I pray you
call, to assoil and save us all.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1: 39-55

(NT p. 57)

Leader: The Word of God. **All: For the People of God.** Leader: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

*Calm and Bright Sermon Series:
"Love Fulfilled"*

BRINGING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY HYMN

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

No. 230

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God for all that love has done;

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

**Gracious God, your word of grace came to Mary, a young woman from an ordinary family
living in an ordinary place, and yet you called her to be a part of your great plan. Give us
ears to listen to your call to us to be part of your purposes, and grant that we, like Mary,**

might be able to respond, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." We give ourselves and our gift to you, through Christ. Amen.

GOING OUT TO SERVE

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT	"All Earth Is Waiting"	No. 210
*BENEDICTION		
*CHORAL BENEDICTION	"Sevenfold Amen"	John Stainor
*POSTLUDE	"Carillon"	Gerald Near

*You are invited to remain seated for the postlude as part of your worship experience.
(If you choose to exit the sanctuary during the postlude, please do so quietly. Thank you.)*

**All who are comfortable standing are invited to stand.*