

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 22, 2019
11:00 A.M.

Together in Christ, Reaching Beyond Our Doors.

GATHERING TO PRAISE

PRELUDE "Savior, To the Nations, Come BWV 659" J.S. Bach

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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 AND LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE

One: We have lit three candles—for hope, for peace, and for joy. Today we light the fourth candle—the candle of love. With this flame we signify the love of God that surrounds and fills us at all times, but that we recognize in a special way in the Christmas story. There is no greater power than love. It is stronger than rulers and empires, stronger than grief or despair, stronger even than death. We love, because God loves us.

All: Loving God, we open ourselves to you this Christmas season. As these candles are lit, light our lives with your imagination. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared. Magnify your love within us. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

*HYMN OF PRAISE "Hail to the Lord's Anointed" No. 203

A TIME TO CELEBRATE OUR CHILDREN

"Jesus Loves Me" (congregation sings)
*Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong;
they are weak, but he is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me.
Yes, Jesus loves me. The Bible tells me so.*

CONNECTING WITH GOD IN PRAYER

HYMN "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" No. 196

UNISON PRAYER

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 that we may be part of your purposes. 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 open ourselves to your word now. As you speak through prayer and song, scripture and preaching today, help us to receive all that you have to give us. This we ask with gratitude and expectation for the coming of the long expected Christ. Amen.

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 "Lo! In the Cold of Winter Deep" arr. Gordon Thornett
soprano saxophone: Peter Deneen

Lo! In the cold of winter deep, the spirit moves through the barren trees, passing the birch and the mighty oak and the cedars who reach for his flowing cloak. Lo! The humble stump of Jesse, silent within the forest glen, here is the one, hewn down long ago, on whom the spirit now descends. See! How the tiniest, tender shoot springs forth from the stump to renew its youth, quietly grows and softly speaks of life from decay in the hope of spring. No kingly height to garner praise, no handsome crown of gold or red. Towering over him, poplars are proud and maples shake their glorious heads. Lamb and wolf appear together; goat and leopard share the shade. One little boy leads a calf and lion; fear and death have flown away. Lo! The righteous branch of David blossoms with holy, fragrant flowers. Fairest of fruit from Jesse's root fills heaven and earth by the spirit's power. Spring forth, oh tree of Israel. Rejoice!

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 1: 39-56 (NT p. 57)
Leader: The Word of God. **All: For the People of God.** Leader: Thanks be to God.

SERMON *Joy to This World Sermon Series:*
"Love's Work"

BRINGING GIFTS TO GOD THAT ADVANCE PEACE

At this time please pass the attendance pads back down your pew (if you're on the lower level, back toward the angled aisles). Use this opportunity to indicate on the pad the needs you want us to be aware of or your areas of interest.

OFFERTORY MUSIC “Advent Meditation”
Peter Deneen, soprano saxophone & Tom Bara, organ

*DOXOLOGY FOR ADVENT (tune: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel")

**Praise God from whom all Blessings flow,
Praise God all Creatures here below,
Praise God above ye Heavenly Host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Rejoice,
Rejoice, Emmanuel, Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GOING OUT TO SERVE

*HYMN OF DEDICATION	"Joy to the World"	No. 246 (vs. 1, 2 & 4)
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*BENEDICTION

One: Depart in peace, and take with you the certain knowledge
That God is always coming into the world.

**All: We will seek God, not in a long ago stable or ancient manger,
But in the people we meet and the depths of our own hearts.**

One: May the blessing of Christmas make you a blessing to others;
May the peace of the season pervade all that you do.

All: We will welcome the challenge of discipleship.

We will offer ourselves as God's ministers.

We will go forth in hope, peace, joy, and love.

*CHORAL BENEDICTION "Go Out from this Place" Diane Clark

*POSTLUDE "Savior, To the Nations, Come BWV 661" J.S. Bach

*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.