



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2022

Draw near to God

for God is waiting for you.

* indicates where the congregation is to stand if able
italic type is spoken by the liturgist – bold is spoken by the congregation

CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Rachel Dell'Orefice, soloist

JOEL RANEY

Voi - ces cry out from a world in grief:
prayers of those who seek re - lief.
End their dark - ness, hear their call for
peace on earth, good will for all.

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LITANY:

Advent is a time to let go of anger and fear.

God of love, fill our hearts with true compassion.

Advent is a time to look for the best in others.

God of love, help us speak truth with kindness.

Advent is a time to share with those in need.

God of love, remind us that in giving, we receive.

Advent is a time to notice and appreciate the good around us.

God of love, help us see the world through loving eyes.

OPENING PRAYER

God of love, we open our hearts to you today and ask that you fill us with the power of your love. Take away our bitterness, greed, and jealousy. Remind us that we are brothers and sisters, all sharing the wonderful gift of life. Help us treat others with respect and love, and help us care for the world you have given us with loving hearts and gentle hands. Amen.

***HYMN #93** Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

1. Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.

2. Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

3. Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.
Let me thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal.

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND BROKENESS

God With Us, we confess that at times we feel very far away from you. War, poverty, racism, climate change—with all the struggles of the world, sometimes we wonder where you are, instead of asking the question of who we are in this world. We forget we are all your children. We forget that you are with us, always, to the end of time. In the times of deepest struggle, may we remember that you promised us a sign of your presence: Emmanuel, God With Us. Your covenant with us, to be our God forever, endures even when we forget. In this last week of Advent, as we draw near to Christmas, may we remember you are with us. As the promises of the world let us down, as the music stops and the celebrations cease, may we know you are with us, now and always. Emmanuel, God With Us. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND BLESSING

... Jesus died for me. Jesus forgives me. Jesus loves me. Jesus is good to me. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Micah 5:2-5

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Luke 1:26-38

***HYMN #146** Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

1. Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger; there he lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Savior? Ask the saved of all the race who have found his favor.

2. Angels sang about his birth; wise men sought and found him;
heaven's star shone brightly forth, glory all around him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, heard the angels singing;
all the plains were lit that night; all the hills were ringing.

3. Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger; he is still the undefiled, but no more a stranger.
Son of God, of humble birth, beautiful the story; praise his name in all the earth; hail the King of glory!

RECOGNITION OF THE OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him, all creatures here below. Praise him above, ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Dear God, you blessed Mary by making her the mother of your only Son, Jesus Christ. You have blessed us, as well, with the gift of your Son, and indeed, with the gift of life itself. Out of all these blessings, we give you back these offerings this day. Knowing that your promises will be fulfilled, we pledge our lives to you in anticipation of the coming of the one who came in love and brings us peace. Amen.

SHARING JOYS, CONCERNS AND FRIENDSHIP

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who is 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. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

CHRISTMAS MUSICAL

Shepherds, Sheep and a Savior

Ed McKee

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS: December 18, 2022.

This week's carillon is in memory of Emma K. Ashworth.

SPECIAL THANKS TO MUSICAL PARTICIPANTS: Thank you Leanne Yerkes, Director of Music, for bringing your special talents in making this year's musical such an inspiring experience. You didn't do it alone so we want to also thank our singers who gave months of rehearsal: Beth Conti, Marilyn Cook, Missi Dell'Orefice, Pat Gessner, Sue Hampton, Terry and Sam Holton, Donna Jencks, Karen, Andrea and Julia Myers, Janice Propsner, Sharon Ruth, Becky and Gianna Schroeder, Ruth Squillace, Bill Wark, and Courtney Woolslayer. Thanks to our wonderful Shepherds: Keegan Fullman, Merrily Henley, Kara and Nathan Holton, Aaron Myers and also to our awesome Mary, Charlotte Lucera. Thanks to our fantastic drummer, Paul Wachtendorf.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS: **This week we are asking for Pasta sauce and pasta.** Bring your item(s) to the church during the week or next Sunday morning. Donations are to be placed in the wagon located in the vestibule.



6:00 PM - Christmas Eve candlelight service of Lessons and Carols with special music.

10:00 AM - Christmas Day worship, a service of music and stories that will allow us to praise God for the greatest of gifts, Jesus our Savior.

FIRST WEDNESDAY COMMUNITY LUNCH: On January 4 beginning at noon, there will be the next lunch at the church featuring a special speaker. This month we will hear from Nancy Haines Spears. Nancy served as a Lieutenant in the Army Nurse Corp, including a year in a Mash hospital in Vietnam. She will share reflections on the evolving roles of women in the military and her experiences as a young nurse in a war. Currently, she is a resident at Pine Run with her new friend, Gail Shaffer, member of Forest Grove. All are invited to hear her fascinating stories. Bring your own bag lunch.

FRIDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP – JANUARY 6, 2023, 6:00 – 7:30PM: Our mission focus will be on helping others keep warm. We will welcome donations of warm weather clothing, new or used, including coats, scarves, gloves, hats, socks, and thermal underwear. Homemade items are also welcome. Please wash used clothes before you donate. We will also be making fleece blankets. Dinner this month will once again be potluck of soup and bread. We will need a few donated pots of soup and loaves of bread. Please sign up for the event and let us know if you want to donate food for the meal. Not everyone needs to bring food this month and EVERYONE is welcome including friends!

<u>Calendar:</u>	December 18	10:00am	Christmas Musical by Coffee and Fellowship.
	December 19	7:00pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal.
	December 21	12:00pm	Lunch Bunch, bring your lunch.
	December 24	6:00pm	Christmas Eve candle light service.
	December 25	10:00am	Christmas Day Worship.

Elder of the Month: Michael Myers

Deacon of the Month: Merrily Henley

Coffee Hour: Beth Conti

In our thoughts and prayers:

The Conner/Lang Family, Aleena Lang, Raymond Tinari,
Jim Turner, Violet Sanders, Steve Rash, Bill Yerkes, David Posnett

Church Staff

Susan Fall, Pastor

Leanne Yerkes, Director of Music

Susan Flanagan, Office Administrator

Frank Orzechoski, Financial Manager

Natalia Blinova, Childcare

Mark Lempp, Grounds Keeper

