



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2023

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

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH Emilie Cullerton and Merrily Henley
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 #105** People, Look East

1. People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able; trim the hearth and set the table. People, look east and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way.

2. Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there. Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish. People, look east and sing today: Love, the Rose, is on the way.

3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled. Even the hour when wings are frozen God for fledging time has chosen. People, look east and sing today: Love, the Bird, is on the way.

4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim, shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together. People, look east and sing today: Love, the Star, is on the way.

5. Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth. Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming. People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord is on the way.

CALL TO CONFESSION AND RECONCILIATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND BROKENESS

Holy God, you promised to do great things for us, yet we do not trust you. You extend your mercy to us, yet we do not trust you. You lift up the humble, you fill the hungry with good things, and yet we still do not trust you. Forgive us, and help us to trust in the promises you have given us. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. 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 Isaiah 11:1-9

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

****HYMN #110*** Love Has Come

1. Love has come: a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

2. Love is born! Come, share in the wonder. Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother; what is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers. Love! Love! Jesus Emmanuel.

3. Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Luke 1:26-38

SERMON Nothing is Impossible with God

CALL FOR THE OFFERING AND MOMENT OF FRIENDSHIP

OFFERTORY

****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 AND CONCERNS

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.

****HYMN #119*** Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

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 the virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the incarnate deity, pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

3. Hail the heaven-born 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!"

****BENEDICTION***

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS, DECEMBER 24 2023

This week's carillon is in memory of "Loved Ones".

Christmas Eve: Our worship on the 24th will be held first at 10:00 AM when we will observe the fourth Sunday of Advent. A second service at 6:00 PM will be a traditional candlelight Christmas Eve service including lessons in carols and special music.

New Year's Eve: As December 31 falls on a Sunday, we will hold our usual Sunday morning service at 10:00 AM. This will be a family friendly service as there will be no Sunday School that day.

FRIDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP: The next evening fellowship will be on January 5, 5:30 – 7:30. Our Mission Project will be to assemble "Smile Bags" and Arts & Crafts projects for children in Doylestown Hospital and CHOP. Slips for items needed for this project are found on the partition in Fellowship Hall. If you take a slip, please be sure to have all purchased items here at the church by Wednesday, January 3. To learn more about this project and the organization, we will have a special guest, Krista Spadt, from "Simple Gifts Project." Sign up in Fellowship Hall if you plan to attend.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS: This week we are asking for the following items: Coffee, Tea, and Hot Chocolate. And canned goods, always needed as well. Donations are to be placed in the wagon located in the vestibule.

Calendar: December 24 10:00 am Fourth Sunday of Advent service, followed by Fellowship
6:00 pm Traditional candlelight Christmas Eve service
December 25 CHRISTMAS – offices closed

December 26

Offices Closed in Observance of Christmas

December 27 12:00 pm

Bring your Brown bag lunch for Fellowship.

December 29

Offices Closed in Observance of the New Year

Elder of the month: Courtney Woolslayer **Deacon of the month:** Merrily Henley

Ushers: Bill Wark and Mike Guarracino

In our thoughts and prayers:

The Conner/Lang Family, Aleena Lang, Raymond Tinari, Jim Turner, Violet Sanders,
Mary Lou Humlhanz, David Posnett, Pat Pizza, Kara Holton, Esther Welch, Kevin Realley



Church Staff

Susan Fall, Pastor

Leanne Yerkes, Director of Music

Susan Flanagan, Office Administrator

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