



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024

Draw near to God.

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

In Dulci Jubilo

Bach

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Emilie Cullerton and Susan Thomes

Last Sunday we lit the candle of Hope, remembering the hope which comes in Christ, the candle of Peace, remembering God's dream of a peaceful world, and the candle of Joy, remembering the Spirit within us who brings joy. (Light Candles) Today we light the fourth candle of Advent, the candle of Love.

Scripture tells us "There is no fear in love, for perfect love casts out fear." God created this world in love and this world will end in the love of God. God's love pervades all aspects of this life. From birth to death, pain to delight, strangers to lovers, God's love is there. We light this candle in Love.

HYMN #92 (remain seated) While We are Waiting, Come

1 While we are wait - ing, come;
 2 With power and glo - ry, come;
 3 Come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come;

while we are wait - ing, come.
 with power and glo - ry, come.
 come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come.

Je - sus, our Lord, Em - man - u - el,

while we are wait - ing, come.

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

O Holy God of Promise, we so often place our trust in the things we can see, and touch, and easily believe. But you did not ask us to believe what is easy, you have asked us to believe what is true! Forgive us, Holy One, when we doubt the ways you work. Forgive us when we find it hard to believe an ancient story. Forgive us we question how you chose to enter the world, born as one of us. Forgive our lack of faith and belief in ways which seem so impossible to believe. Help us to look in faith, open our belief, and set aside our doubts that you sent your Son, born of a virgin – the one who has come to set us all free. We offer these prayers in the name of your Son, 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 5:2-5a

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 1:39-56

SERMON Mary's Spunk

***HYMN #88** (verses 1, 4, 6 and 7) O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

4. O come, thou Root of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny; from depths of hell thy people save and give them victory o'er the grave. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

6. O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

7. O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind; bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

CALL FOR THE OFFERING AND MOMENT OF FRIENDSHIP

OFFERTORY

Silent Night

Gruber

Betsi Sell, Flute

Paul Wachtendorf, Trumpet

Missi Dell'Orefice, Handbells

***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

Have No Fear, Little Flock

Burkhardt

ANNOUNCEMENTS, December 22, 2024

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

WELCOME SUSAN LEWIS: who is our guest musician this week.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES: A special candlelight service of Lessons in Carols will be held on December 24 at 6:00 PM. If you would like to be a reader, please contact Pastor Su.

NEW YEAR'S FRIDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP: Friday, January 3, 2025 will be hosting at Forest Grove Church with Anchor Church as our guest for a silly "White Elephant" gift exchange for the Epiphany. We will make blankets for our mission project. Soup and salad for dinner. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall or call the Church office.

OUR OLD CHURCH BELL: A sub committee met last Sunday to begin to think about the placement of the church bell that was formerly in the steeple. If you have an interest in this project please contact Janice Propsner at: rpropsner@comcast.net, Cell# 215-527-4739

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS: This week we are asking for the following items: Canned Meat, Vegetables and Bean soup. Unsalted or low salt nuts and seeds (such as almonds, walnuts, cashews, peanuts, and sunflower) Donations are to be placed in the wagon found in the vestibule.

This week's calendar of events:

December 22	10:00 am	Worship and Sunday School followed by Coffee Hour
	4:00 pm	Iglesia Pentecostal Asamblea De Dios Worship Service
December 24	6:00 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
December 25		CHRISTMAS DAY
December 26		Offices Closed

Elder of the month: Bill Wark **Deacon of the month:** Maggie Realley

Ushers: Gerry Stemplewicz and Mike Guarracino **Coffee Hour Fellowship:** Beth Conti

Sunday school Teacher: Kim King

In our thoughts and prayers:

The Conner/Lang Family, Aleena Lang, Raymond Tinari, Marge and Jim Turner, Violet Sanders, Gail Shaffer, Doris Daniels, Janice Propsner, Maggie Rash



Church Staff
Susan Fall, Pastor
Susan Flanagan, Office Administrator
Frank Orzechoski, Financial Manager



The Poinsettias were given to the Glory of God...

In loving memory of John Thiessen from Sally Thiessen.

In loving memory of my parents, Ed and Lois Daniels from Sharon Ruth.

In loving memory of Elliott and Kathryn Wiggins from Rick Wiggins.

In loving memory of my Mother and Aunts from Peggy Mellinger.

In loving memory of our parents Craig and Donna Jencks.

In loving memory of my late husband Frank Greenwood from Martha Greenwood.

In loving memory of Janice's parents Bob and Edith Payton from Bob and Janice Propsner.

In loving memory of Bob's parents Bob and Dolores Propsner from Bob and Janice Propsner.

*In loving memory of David Danilowicz, Sr. (Dan's dad), Ralph Martin (Peggy's dad), and
John Martin (Peggy's brother) from Peggy and Dan Danilowicz.*

In loving memory of my husband, Ralph and our son, John from Janet Martin.

In honor of our great grandchildren Danny and Lizzy Cornell from Alvin and Kathy Cornell.

In honor of Eloise Hyndman from Bill, Jolie, Liam and Logan Hyndman.

In honor of the Wark and McHugh families from Bill and Sue Wark.

In loving memory of cousin Claire Schofield from Susan Thomes.

