

Sunday December 20th 2020

Fourth Sunday In Advent - Love

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

One: Advent is a season of waiting.

All: But we do not wait alone.

One: God is with us.

All: We worship with those who have seen the signs, heard the whispers, felt the tugs in their hearts.

One: God is offering Love to this waiting world.

All: Let us worship with hearts open to Love.

Hymn **VU# 62** “Once In Royal David’s City”

Prayer of Approach (said together)

O God of Light and Love, our waiting has brought us to Christmas week, and our hearts are brimming with anticipation. In a few short days we will celebrate once again the coming of the Light of the World.

Open our hearts and minds to hear this old story in new ways, and fill us with the kind of faith that Mary had as she made her Advent journey. In Christ’s name we pray, Amen

Candle Lighting – The Candle of Love

We light this candle today to remind us of how God's perfect love is found in Jesus. Let us pray:

Loving God, we thank you for your gift of love - you have shown love to us perfectly in Jesus Christ our Lord. Help us prepare our hearts to receive Him. Bless our worship and help us to hear and do your word. We ask it in the name of the one born in Bethlehem. Amen.

Our Candle Song

Good News Time

The Lord’s Prayer

Hymn **VU# 69** “O Little Town Of Bethlehem”

Advent Prayer (said together)

Advent God, we journey with you, to Bethlehem's stable and a new-born King, ears attuned to the song of angels, eyes alert for Bethlehem's star. Forgive us if on our journey we are distracted by the tempting offers of this world.

Keep our hearts aflame with the hope of Christmas, and the promise of a Saviour who calls us to love one another. Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Psalm 89: 1-4, 19-26

Gospel Reading: Luke 1: 26-38

Anthem: Wayne Burton and Madilyn Paige – “*Breath of Heaven (Mary's Song)*”

Sermon:

Hymn VU# 76 “Away In A Manger”

The Offering Dedication

Offering Response: VU #55 verse 3 only

***What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part.
Yet what I can I give him--give my heart.***

Prayers of the People

Hymn VU# 59 “God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen”

The Blessing and Benediction

Go now in peace, never be afraid;
God will go with you each hour of every day;
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true;
Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe;
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there, watching from above!
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.
Amen. Amen. Amen.

Words: Don Besig and Nancy Price, Music: Don Besig © 1999

Postlude: Lux Aeterna – “Candlelight Carol”