



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
A way through LOVE

December 22, 2019

Worship 9:30am

Sharing Christmas Music 10:50

GATHERING IN THE LIGHT OF LOVE

PRELUDE

Karen Hostetler, pianist

REFLECTIVE CALL TO LOVE

Sallie Page-Goertz and Kennedy Kaufman

The last Sunday in Advent is often focused on the theme of love. God's love for the world and our love for each other. Paul says in I Corinthians 13 that love is the greatest gift of all, more than faith and hope. Jesus says that our love for each other will show to the world that we are disciples of Jesus (John 13:35).

Poet Elizabeth Alexander writes this: What if the mightiest word is love, love beyond marital, filial, national. Love that casts a widening pool of light. Love with no need to preempt grievance. In today's sharp sparkle, this winter air, anything can be made, any sentence begun. On the brink, on the brim, on the cusp—praise song for walking forward in that light.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Andy Toews, trombone

Creator of the Stars of Night

WELCOME

Sallie Page-Goertz, worship leader

*HYMN #172 st. 1, 3, 5, 6

O come, O come, Immanuel

LISTENING FOR AND LEARNING ABOUT LOVE

CONVERSATION WITH CHILDREN

Sarah Neher

SUNG RESPONSE:

5 Light one can-dle for love love that the whole world needs.

Light one can-dle for love love that the Sav-ior will bring.

ANTHEM

Noel

arr. Harlan

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel", which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

SERMON

Born in chaos

SUNG PRAYER *Snow falling down on Bethlehem*

Gascho-Cooke

Please join in the refrain:

Jesse Graber, guitar

Snow falling down on brown skin

Snow falling down on Bethlehem

Snow falling down on a traveling family

Snow falling down on Bethlehem

RESPONDING AND SHARING IN LOVE

SHARING JOY

We welcome the introduction of guests and visitors during this time. One way we get to know one another is by signing the friendship registers. Once the register reaches the center aisle, please pass it back to the outer aisle.

SHARING CONCERNS

PRAYING TOGETHER

Hymn #16

God is here among us

Slips of paper are available in the pew racks for those who wish to offer joys and concerns silently and anonymously. These papers, if put in the offering plate, will be placed in the prayer bowl table at the front of the sanctuary.

OFFERING

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you did not have time to submit a written announcement, or if something new needs highlighting, please hand your written announcement to the worship leader or pastor before the worship service.

GOING INTO THE WORLD WITH LOVE

*HYMN #201

Hark! the herald angels sing

*SENDING FORTH PRAYER

Please remain standing for the postlude.

*POSTLUDE

* You may stand.

Unless otherwise indicated, hymns are in the blue *Hymnal: A Worship Book*.

Songs designated “SS” are in the purple *Sing the Story* hymnal.

As we sing, please use language that makes worship most meaningful, enriching and inclusive.

The light sculpture at the front of the sanctuary was created by Arlie Regier and his son Paul. We have cherished the long tradition of featuring this gift during Advent and Christmas

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Pastor Ruth's Blog: www.overandaroundtherainbow.com

Merry Christmas! Thank you to everyone who continues to make Rainbow the beautiful place it is. We look forward to another year of seeking the peace of the city alongside all of you as we worship, serve, and learn together.

-Mark, Ben, Sarah, Carrie, Rosi, and Ruth