

**Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 22, 2024**

**Gathering  
*God invites us to enter His presence***

**Prelude** *Festive Overture*  
*Orchestra*

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Preparation for Worship** (*Time for Silent Preparation*)

 **Call to Worship** (*Responsively*) *Dan Obenschain*

Show us your unfailing love, O God, our Savior,  
**and grant us your salvation.**  
Listen to what the Lord our God says:  
**He promises peace to his people, who are his beloved saints.**  
The Lord will indeed give what is good.  
**Righteousness goes before him and prepares the way for his steps.**  
May the Lord make his holy face to shine upon us in this time of Advent worship. May we see  
God's face and so know peace. **Amen.**  
—based on Psalm 85:7-13, NIV

 **Invocation** (*Responsively*) *Dan Obenschain*

O send out your light and your truth; let them lead me;  
let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling.  
**Then I will go to the altar of God, to God, my exceeding joy;  
and I will praise you with the harp, O God, my God.**  
Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within  
me?  
**Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.  
Amen.**  
—from Psalm 43:3-5, NRSV

***Cantata – Carols of Christmas***

**Come, Adore Him** (O Come, All ye Faithful; O Come, O Come, Emmanuel; God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen)

(Choir only) Come, come, come, come ...

(Choir & Congregation)

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come and behold Him, born the king of angels!  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

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, Israel.

God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay.  
Remember Christ, our Savior, was born of Christmas Day,  
to save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray.  
O tiding of comfort and joy, comfort and joy! O tiding of comfort and joy!

Now to the Lord sing praises all you within this place!  
And with true love and brotherhood, come celebrate His grace.  
This holy Child of Christmas, may each one seek His face.  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy! O tidings of comfort and joy!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n.  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

*(Choir only)*

Christ the Lord! Christ the Lord! Come, come, come, come ...

#### **Advent Candle Lighting—Week 4**

*The Steinginga Family*

Reader: The first candle reminds us our hope we have in the coming of our Lord (Light 1<sup>st</sup> candle)  
The second candle represents the peace that we can experience in God's presence. (Light 2<sup>nd</sup> Candle)  
This is the joy candle – a joy He gives us that triumphs over the pains of this life. (Light 3<sup>rd</sup> Candle)  
Today's candle is for love – the amazing love God has for us, to send His beloved Son to be with us.  
“Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you a sign; See, the virgin will conceive, have a son, and name Him Immanuel (God With Us).”  
We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ (Light 4<sup>th</sup> Candle)

**All: Advent means coming. We are preparing for the full coming of God's Kingdom.**

#### **Light of Hope** (Light of Hope, Silent Night)

*(Solos)*

It all starts with one, one candle in the darkness.  
I reach my hand to yours, together we make a difference,  
And the darkness soon is gone as the flame goes on and on.

*(Choir)*

Light of hope, light of peace, all over the world let there be harmony.  
Share the joy, watch it grow, beautiful light, light of hope.

*(Solos)*

What can one candle do in a world so full of hatred?  
We would be amazed, how a caring heart could change it.

(Choir)

Heaven's light will guide, for that's when love shines bright.  
Light of hope, light of peace, all over the world let there be harmony.  
Share the joy, watch it grow, beautiful light, light of hope!

Lift up your candle, and I'll lift up mine.  
Don't be afraid, let Jesus shine!

Light of hope, light of peace, all over the world let there be harmony.  
Share the joy, watch it grow, beautiful light, light of hope.

(Youth)

Beautiful light, radiant light. Beautiful light, light of hope.

(Choir & Congregation)

Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright.  
Round yon virgin mother and child!  
Holy infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light.  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth!

Light of hope!

### Offering

***Thankful of the gifts God has given us, we offer ourselves to Him***

#### **Offering**

**Offertory**            *What Child is This?*  
                                 *Orchestra*

#### **! Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
*Praise Him, all creatures here below;*  
*Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;*  
*Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men.*

#### **Prayer of Dedication**

God of hope, you gave your Son to free a lost world.  
You give your Spirit to comfort and encourage. You give us hope for a  
future free of pain, sorrow, and tears. You promise us a future with you.  
In gratitude, we bring you our time, talents, and tithes. May our gifts be  
used so that many others will taste and see the goodness of knowing  
you. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

*Revelation 5:11 - 14*

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands saying with a loud voice:

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain  
To receive power and riches and wisdom,  
And strength and honor and glory and blessing!”

And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying:

“Blessing and honor and glory and power  
Be to Him who sits on the throne,  
And to the Lamb, forever and ever!”

Then the four living creatures said, “Amen!” and the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.

**Worthy is the Lamb with Gloria!** (Choir – Excerpts from Handel’s Messiah and Vivaldi’s Gloria)

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, and hath redeemed us to God by His blood,  
To receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing.

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, and hath redeemed us to God, to God by His blood, To receive  
power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing.

Gloria! Gloria! Gloria! Gloria!  
In excelsis Deo! In excelsis Deo!  
Gloria! Gloria! Gloria! Gloria!  
In excelsis Deo!  
Gloria! In excelsis Deo!

Glorious is Thy name! Is Thy name, O Lord!  
Glorious is Thy name! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Blessing and honor be to God forever and evermore! (2x)  
Hallelujah!!!

**Celtic Christmas Celebration** (Hark, the Herald Angels Sing; He Is Born; Angels From the Realms of Glory)

(Choir, Orchestra, and Congregation)  
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 th’angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”  
Hark, the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Hail, the heav’n born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Son of righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings, Ris’n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth.  
Hark, the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

He is born, the divine Christ child. Greet Him with joyful resounding pipe and drum.  
He is born, the divine Christ child. Join in a song, for the Lord has come.  
Prophets wise had foretold His birth, pledging peace to all men on earth.  
Filled with hope, men began to pray 'til His coming this happy day.  
He is born, the divine Christ child. Greet Him with joyful resounding pipe and drum.  
He is born, the divine Christ child, join in a song, for the Lord has come.

(Choir)

Join in a song, for the Lord has come!

(Choir & Congregation)

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth.  
Come and worship, come and worship. Worship Christ, the newborn King!

Shepherds in the fields abiding, watching 'er your flocks by night,  
God with man is now residing, yonder shines the infant light.  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!

(Choir)

Worship Christ, the newborn King, newborn King, the newborn King!

### **Proclaiming**

#### ***God speaks to us through His Word***

#### **Scripture Reading**

*1 John 4:7-16*

<sup>7</sup> Dear friends, let us love one another, because love is from God, and everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> The one who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his one and only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> Love consists in this: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice<sup>1</sup> for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Dear friends, if God loved us in this way, we also must love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God. If we love one another, God remains in us and his love is made complete in us. <sup>13</sup> This is how we know that we remain in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup> And we have seen and we testify that the Father has sent his Son as the world's Savior. <sup>15</sup> Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God—God remains in him and he in God. <sup>16</sup> And we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and the one who remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him.

#### **Reflection**

*"Songs of Love"*

*Rev. Tim Latham*

### **Commissioning**

#### ***God sends us out into the world as His witnesses***



#### **Commission Song**

*Come, Light Our Hearts*

*McCracken*

*Chorus*

*For You, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.*

*For You, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.*

*Truly our hope is in You. Truly our hope is in You.*

*Verse 1*

*O Lord of life, our only hope, Your radiance shines on all who look to You in the dark.  
Emmanuel come, come light our hearts.*

*Chorus*

*Verse 2*

*O joy above all other loves, in You we find more than enough.  
We come as we are; O heal and restore, come light our hearts.*

*Chorus*

*Tag*

*Truly our hope is in You.*



**Benediction & Blessing**



**Postlude**

*Go Tell It On the Mountain*  
*Orchestra*