



Sunday, December 20, 2020

Welcome!

We are thankful that you are worshiping with us today! To learn more about the life of our congregation, join our email list [here](#).

Here are some helpful resources for our younger worshippers:

[This Week's Children's Bulletin](#) | [Worship Worksheet for Kids](#)

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:30 A.M.

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

INTROIT

In the Bleak Midwinter

Harold Darke

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 89:1-2; 24

I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;

With my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;

Your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with him;

And in my name his horn shall be exalted.

*OPENING PRAYER

God of grace, your eternal Word took flesh among us when Mary placed her life at the service of your will. Prepare our hearts for his coming again; keep us steadfast in hope and faithful in service, that we may receive the coming of his kingdom for the sake of Jesus Christ, the ruler of all, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*HYMN 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

1. 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!

2. True God from true God, Light from light external,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
very God, begotten, not created!
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!
3. Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
sing all you citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
O come, let us adore him; O come let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!
4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all the glory given;
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!

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Leader: May God be with you in worship there.

Congregation: **May God be with you in worship there.**

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

We have all sinned, not one of us is clean; but there is mercy for those who call on the name of the Lord. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Countless times in our life you reassure us by saying "fear not"; and yet we ignore this gift of your presence, afraid of the unknown. It is this fear of not knowing that makes us want to be God. Help us to understand in our hearts and minds that we are not God, but rather show the love of God in this world. Forgive us when we choose to be comfortable and stagnant in our love to one another, rather than live into your sacrificial love. Teach us to remember the sacrifice it took for you to come to us: as a refugee, on a long journey, as a criminal, born in poverty - a vulnerable child. Amen.

POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATERS

Remember your baptism and be thankful!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Again we are promised, "Fear not for the Lord is with you!" In Christ, we are promised that nothing can separate us from the love of God. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

*GLORIA PATRI

GREATOREX

*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.*

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Since we have been reconciled to God, let us also be reconciled to one another.
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

*SUNG RESPONSE (91)

COME, COME EMMANUEL

*Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel
Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel*

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Almighty God, who shows us the meaning of unconditional love by sending us your presence in human form, pour you Spirit onto us this day as we learn of your goodness and light. In your precious name, we pray. Amen.

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Psalm 89:1-4; 19-26
Here ends the psalm. **Amen.**

Luke 1:26-38
The Gospel of the Lord. **May Jesus Christ be praised.**

SERMON

Rev. David Madewell

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

adapted from The Confession of 1967

In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys and sorrow. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all of humanity. His life and teaching judged their goodness, religious aspirations, and national hopes. Many rejected him and demanded his death. In diving himself freely for them, he took upon himself the judgement under which all people stand convicted. God raised him from the dead, vindicating him as Messiah and Lord. The victim of sin became victor, and won the victory over sin and death for all.

THE EUCHARIST

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

MUSIC FOR THE OFFERING

Love Came Down at Christmas

John Rutter

*THE DOXOLOGY (Hymn 606)

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art 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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD & THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our hope, we give you thanks for letting us see even more clearly a sign of your unconditional love that knows no bounds. With this sign of your sacrifice, through bread and wine, help us to emulate your sacrificial love in our lives and in our world. We give you thanks. Amen.

THE SENDING

*HYMN 121

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in the dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
2. For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.
3. How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.

No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

4. O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

**Rise in body or spirit*

LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

PREACHING

Rev. David Madewell

PRESIDING AT THE TABLE

Dennis Jewett, Director of Music

ASSISTING

Jeff Moles, Director of Christian Education & Mission
Stephanie Dube, Director of Youth Ministries & Weekday School

MUSICIANS

Patrick Ritsch, Organist
Choral Scholars



Advent Vespers

including the lighting of the Advent wreath

Tonight at 5:00pm

Outdoors at the church and on Facebook Live