



## ***FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT***

*December 22, 2024*

*10:00 am*

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*\*please rise as you are able, in body or spirit.*

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH**

*This is the day that the Lord has made.*

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

**INTROIT**

Handchimes Choir

**LIGHTING THE FOURTH CANDLE OF ADVENT –**

Emily Bender and Ellen Plaza

*A long time ago, a baby was born in a town called "House of Bread." His name was Jesus. After his birth, Mary, his mother, was amazed at all that was being said about him and the community's outpouring of love.*

*First, we light the candle of hope. Hope is believing things can get better with compassion and imagination.*

*Next, we light the candle of peace. Peace is what happens when everyone treats each other, themselves, and the world kindly and as neighbors.*

*Then, we light the candle of joy. Joy is when you feel so thankful you could burst with excitement and gratitude.*

*Today, we light the candle of love. Love is the care and connection binding us together with each other and with God.*

*As we light this candle, we are reminded that, from the manger, love is growing—growing to be God with us. His name is Jesus, Bread of Life.*

**God who is always listening to our every breath, we pray for those who are not receiving the human attention they need to thrive. We pray for strengthened support networks and mercy upon our neighbors with medical needs and disabilities, for children enduring neglect or abuse, for exhausted caregivers, for the creation all around us. Awaken us to their needs we have neglected. May we partner with you in attentiveness and love. Amen.**

HYMN\*      “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”      146

PRAYER OF PRAISE\*

CONFESSION OF SIN (UNISON)

**Ever-loving God, you have shown us how to love. You sent your Son to teach us. We confess we have turned our eyes away from suffering. We have often avoided interaction and common tables. We**

**have limited love to familiar boxes and boundaries. We have hoarded resources and fenced ourselves in, away from people who are different from us. Teach us to love, that we might be true disciples of the one who showed us how to love. May the world be fed with love.**

(silence)

**Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy. Kyrie Eleison. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON / PASSING OF THE PEACE\*

RESPONSE TO PARDON\*

112

**When sin departs before his grace,  
Then life and health come in its place;  
When sin departs before his grace,  
Then life and health come in its place.  
Glory to God in highest heaven;  
Peace on earth and goodwill. Amen.**

A TIME WITH CHILDREN

OLD TESTAMENT – Micah 5:2-5a

Ann Marie Conner

OFFERING OF MUSIC

Adult Choir, Robin Begnoche, soloist

*“Treasure of Heaven”*

GOSPEL – Luke 2:25-35; Matthew 9:35-37

SERMON

Linda Dickerson

*“Amazement”*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/LORD’S PRAYER

*Hear us, Lord. Your mercy is great.*

**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.**

HYMN\* *“Angels, From the Realms of Glory”* 143

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION\*

CHORAL RESPONSE\*

**While we are waiting, come;  
While we are waiting, come;  
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,  
While we are waiting, come.**

FELLOWSHIP TIME

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES

***JOIN US FOR A  
CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT  
SERVICE  
7:30 PM TUESDAY***