

CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING

***BENEDICTION**

Be people of love. Let love live in your heart and share the love of Christ with all you meet. Share love by loving those you see regularly. Start by loving your community. Share love by loving those you do not know.

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

“The First Noel”

No. 245 (Refrain)

Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

***RECESSIONAL HYMN**

“Emmanuel, Emmanuel”

No. 204 (sing twice)

*Em-man-u-el, Em-man-u-el,
His name is called Em-man-u-el.
God with us, revealed in us,
His name is called Em-man-u-el.*

WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD!



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**DECEMBER 22, 2024
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Welcome Visitors: We are pleased you have chosen to worship with us today. If you have questions concerning the service, please feel free to ask an usher or a person sitting near you. If you do not have a permanent church home, please consider joining us. Large Print Bulletins: We have bulletins in LARGE print available. Please ask an usher for one. May God bless your experience in worship with us today. We are here to serve, so please let us know how we might better serve you.

ORDER OF WORSHIP – 10:30 AM

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CELEBRATION THROUGH CENTERING

GREETING, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND PRAYER REQUESTS

CENTERING WORDS

With fullness of heart, soul, and mind, we gather to glorify God and to rejoice in God, our Savior.

PRELUDE 'Carol of the Birds' arr. John Carter

(As the prelude begins, you are invited to center yourself for worship)

CHIMES AND BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT

CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN "O Come, All Ye Faithful" No. 234, Vs. 1, 2, 3 & 4

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: We are waiting on you, God. We are still waiting.

People: The darkness is deeper but look! The star is beginning to shine. The everlasting light is creeping closer. Hope is in the air. Peace is promised. Joy is on the tips of our tongues.

Pastor: Love is coming. Love divine, all loves excelling.

People: We are waiting on love. And love is waiting on us.

OPENING PRAYER

God of love, as we approach the celebration of the birth of your Son, help us to embody the love that He brought into the world. Teach us to love one another as you have loved us. Amen.

INTROIT 'Love Came Down at Christmas' No. 242

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY (The Candle of Love)

Pastor: Love in the midst of rejection---Everyone has felt rejection at one point in their lives.

People: Many feel it all too often because they feel they don't "fit in" to someone's view of a perfect person.

Pastor: The message that this newborn Jesus would bring to the world was the unconditional love of God.

People: In a world where so many are feeling rejected, we call upon El Shaddai, God Almighty, to come.

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF LOVE

HYMN (Tune: "Away in a Manger") Ann Freeman Price, No. 217

*Light four Advent candles and feel all around
The love that is growing and soon will surround.
Light four Advent candles and wait for the morn
When new birth will happen and light will be born.*

Pastor Take a deep breath and reflect on those who feel left out or rejected. (Silence)

PRAYER

Dear God, we pray that our faith may be renewed once again, and may we relive the wonder of your love in our lives. In the name of Jesus the Christ we pray. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

CELEBRATION THROUGH COMMITMENT

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

With joy and faith, may we bring our gifts and our love before God in this time of offering.

THE LORD'S OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM 'Christmas Dreams Overture'

*DOXOLOGY To the Tune "What Child Is This?"

*"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.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.*

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

May these gifts glorify your name, Holy One. May they offer hope, peace, joy and love to your people. In grateful joy, we pray. Amen.

CELEBRATION THROUGH PROCLAMATION

CANTATA

"Christmas Dreams"
By Joseph M. Martin and Heather Sorenson

*Advent Dreams
The Promise and the Prayer
A New Morning of Promise
Zechariah's Song
Mary's Dream
All Through the Night
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
The Magi's Epiphany
Christmas Dreams
A Gentle Christmas Blessing*