

DECEMBER 20, 2020, 10:30 AM

WORD OF WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER

PRELUDE AND LIGHTING OF CANDLES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING: WEEK 4: "LOVE" (CONGREGATION SPEAKS RESPONSES IN BOLD PRINT)

God announces that our prayers are heard.

We will have joy and gladness! We will rejoice at the birth!

Our hearts will be opened. Our God will become one of the human family.

We anticipate the end of carrying our salvation in secret.

The family of humanity will hear a new cry, see a new face, encounter new life.

The One who is coming is the enfleshment of Love.

Today we light the Love candle

**CALL TO WORSHIP (CONGREGATION SPEAKS RESPONSES IN BOLD PRINT)

The light shines in the darkness,

And the darkness has not overcome it.

The Word became flesh and lived among us,

And we have seen his glory.

The law was given through Moses;

Grace and truth come through Jesus Christ.

**HYMN: "JOYFUL, JOYFUL, WE ADORE THEE"

1 Joyful, joyful, we adore You,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before You,
Op'ning to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!

2 All Your works with joy surround You,
Earth and heav'n reflect Your rays,
Stars and angels sing around You,
Center of unbroken praise;
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain
Praising You eternally!

3 Always giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living,
Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Loving Father, Christ our Brother,
Let Your light upon us shine;
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine.

4 Mortals, join the mighty chorus,
Which the morning stars began;
God's own love is reigning o'er us,
Joining people hand in hand.
Ever singing, march we onward,
Victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music leads us sunward
In the triumph song of life.

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

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Dear Lord, as John testified to the light, so we bear witness to your grace through our worship, our service, and our giving. Accept these offerings of our hearts and lives; bless us and all those who receive them, for the sake of your dear son, Amen.

JOYS, CONCERNS AND PRAYER ENDING WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER (BELOW)

**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 sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen**

REFLECTION HYMN: "BE THOU MY VISION"

4 Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We confess our sins before God and one another. *Pause for silence and reflection.*

Faithful God,

Your promises have never wavered, and yet we are not always willing to believe them. We descend into our own despair, unable to see past our immediate concerns. We drag others down with us and live to complain and commiserate. We ignore the miracles in front of our face. Forgive us for living such small lives, O Lord, and restore in us the wonder of what it is to be your people. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God is faithful; God is merciful; God does not hold our sins against us! For this we give you thanks, O Lord. Receive the assurance of your deliverance by the One who promised from of old to set us free, and who seeks and finds us to this very day. Alleluia! Amen.

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 1:26-45 [46-56]

MESSAGE: "JESUS' BIRTH ANNOUNCED"

****HYMN: "HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING"**

1 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 hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain:

***Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King"***

2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the Virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail th'incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel. ***[Refrain]***

3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth. ***[Refrain]***

****THE BENEDICTION**