

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

Let us take this time to quiet our hearts and minds and prepare for worship.

* Please stand if able Plain text = Leader **Bold text = People**

PRELUDE *Christmas Medley* Arr. Ron and Linda Sprunger
Organ/Piano Duet, Betty Niquette, piano

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS The Rev. Dr. Laura S. Sugg
Christ, Be Our Light!



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.



Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered to - day.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Jon, Katie, Adelaide, & Corinne Sakanai
"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice."

Isaiah spoke to a people called chosen, to a tribe called Israel, with a light of hope.

Gabriel came to a town called Nazareth, to a girl called Mary, with a light of joy.

Mary went to a place called Bethlehem,
to a stable called a nursery, with a light of love.

As we light our fourth Advent candle,

we rejoice with Mary, for Love has flesh.

Come now, O Child of Mary.

Come now, O Prince of Love.

* HYMN *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* No. 376

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL (Be seated) Elder

Trusting in God's love, let us pray for renewal. Let us pray...

Living God,

You beckon us to wake from our sleep:

**to open our eyes to the goodness of your reign,
the injustice of our world, and the gap in between.**

You call us to follow in the path of your love.

Forgive us, O God, when we choose the easy way.

Forgive us, O God, when we choose the selfish way,

**the fast way, the successful way, the nice way,
the friendly way, the comfortable way.**

**Convict us, awaken us, empower us, and enliven us
to follow the Way of justice and love.**

(A time for silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

Rom. 5:5

Amen. Hear the good news!

**Hope does not disappoint us,
for God's love has been poured into our hearts through
the Holy Spirit given to us in baptism.**

Believe this good news and give thanks: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Amen.

HEARING THE WORD

GOSPEL READING Luke 1:39-56 (Mary's Song, the Magnificat) Pgs.53-54

Heaven and earth will pass away,
Deacon

but the word of the Lord stands forever.

Isaiah 40:8, Mark 13:31

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM *Sing We Now of Christmas* Choral setting Lloyd Larson

EPISTLE READING I John 4:7-9, 16-21 Pgs. 230-231

TIME FOR CHILDREN *(As the children come forward, please join in singing.)*

This, this is where children belong, part of our family, part of our song.

Be with us, pray with us, help us grow strong, this is where children belong.

SERMON *The Big Picture: The Bible in 11 Stories (6)* Laura Sugg
Love is Born to Us

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Please Stand) Elder

**God created all the worlds that are
and upholds and rules everything.**

**We affirm that the universe exists
by the power of God's Word and Spirit.**

**God has chosen to give it reality
out of the love we have come to know in Christ.**

**God still works
through the processes that shape and change the earth
and the living things upon it.**

**The Creator works in all things
toward the new creation that is promised in Christ.**

--from A Declaration of Faith (1977)

* HYMN *Love Has Come* (see insert) GTG no. 110

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER Front of Hymnal Pg. 16
(Pray, "Forgive us our sins...")

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

OFFERTORY *Mary, Did You Know?* Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene
Pat Cress, Tenor Soloist

* PRESENTATION OF OFFERING Tune: No. 23
**Let the nations shout and sing: glory to their Savior bring;
All below and all above sing your praise with joyous love.
Glo—ria in excelsis Deo. Glo—ria in excelsis Deo.**

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION Laura Sugg
**You deliver us, O God, from exile, separation, and despair
into communion with each other, with you,
and with your good news.
We thank you for all that draws us close together,
astounding us with lives transformed by gratitude.
Accept our gifts as signs of our gratitude
for what you give us every day
and as honor to your presence in our world;
for the sake of those who stand in need
and Jesus Christ, who saves us. Amen.**

* HYMN *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* No. 31

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

* SUNG CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: *He Came Down* STF 2085
**He came down that we may have LOVE (sing this line 3 times)
hallelujah forevermore.**

POSTLUDE *Good Christian Men Rejoice* Based on the German melody,
Organ/Piano Duet, Betty Niquette, piano In Dulci Jubilo,

Please come through to Fellowship Hall for refreshments and conversation.

Pulpit Elder: Anne Baker Deacon Reader: Lori Golightly
Greeter: Jeff Stimson Sound Engineer: Jim Niquette
Time With Children & Youth: Laura Sugg Visitor Desk: Ariane Meyer
Ushers: Brenda Cavanaugh & Alice Datema Poinsettias: Friends & Family of WPC

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Director of Christian Education, Children & Youth: Linda Valo

Organist, Hand Bell Choir Director: Julie Pulliam, M.A.

Choir Director: Katie Sakanai, M.M. Ed.

Treasurer: Eileen Gardner, C.P.A. • Assistant Treasurer: Betsy Smith

Administrative Assistant: Jenny Garner



Love

*WPC Mission Statement
To worship God through faith and action,
to nurture the spirit of Jesus Christ in each of us,
to be an extended family to all,
and to serve the community
through programs, education and prayer.*

Fourth Sunday of Advent December 23, 2018