

December 22, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m.

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Advent Candlelighting

Congregation: God, our Provider, your love is unconditional, surrounding us through every stage of development, relationship, heartbreak, disappointment, and accomplishment. As we gather today in worship, we reach out to you once again. Whether we call you Father or Mother, Shepherd or Friend, your character is unchanging, and your grace is always with us. Open our hearts and minds today to your words of wisdom, spoken and unspoken. Amen

Sung Response: +Light the Candle Verse 4

*Opening Hymn83 Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer for Forgiveness

Ever-loving and compassionate God, you have shown us how to love. Love abounds in shared meals and conversation. We confess we have avoided interaction and common tables. From creation, you have demonstrated your love through a beautiful world with enough resources for all to thrive. We confess we have hoarded resources and fenced ourselves in, away from people who are different from us. From the manger, you have shown us love that visits the humble and powerless. We confess we have aimed our affections toward the popular and powerful. 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. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

*Passing the Peace

*Gloria Hymn #582 Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

Time with God's Children

Anthem Christmas Medley Children's Chimes

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading Luke 1:39-55

Second Reading Luke 2:30-32; Matthew 9:35-37

Sermon Love Grows

Hymn #108 Of the Father's Love Begotten

*Statement of Faith:

One: Let us affirm our commitment to and belief in the Christian discipline of love. We believe love was born into this world as a tiny child, bringing freedom and salvation to all people.

All: We believe love embraces us in our joy and our sorrow, holding us closely and never letting go.

One: We believe love is expansive and inclusive, guiding us to see the humanity in each other.

All: We believe love empowers us to provide nourishment for the hungry and hospitality for the stranger.

One: We believe love calls us to act with compassion, even when it is difficult and costly.

All: We believe love inspires us to build a community where every person is valued, their dignity affirmed, and their worth celebrated.

One: We believe love challenges us to confront systems of injustice that cause hunger and inequality.

All: We believe love compels us to advocate for change, seeking justice and equity for all people.

One: We believe love teaches us that when we give of ourselves, we reflect the heart of God.

All: Let the people be loving, not just in words, but in actions that transform lives and systems.

One: Let the people be loving, creating a world where God's love is made visible in every act of kindness, justice, and advocacy.

All: Let us love boldly, working together to ensure that all have what they need to thrive. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God, our Loving Parent, your love compels us to give because you gave. We give to our loved ones, to our neighbors, to people we will never know, and to our church. We trust you will give us the wisdom to use these offerings to grow seeds of love in the world. Show us how best to steward the resources you have so graciously given us. Amen

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

*Hymn #110

Love Has Come

Charge

Sung Benediction

+From the Manger, verse 4

Postlude

*Rise as you are able, in body or spirit

+See song sheets in the pews.