

Order of Worship
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
9:30 am – December 17, 2023

Participating Live?

Text your prayer requests to 805-309-6867 before the end of the first hymn.

PRELUDE

He Comes! Messiah Comes!
Kyle Hanks, organ

Ron Loree

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WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Karen Flock, liturgist

How does a weary world rejoice?

We sing songs of hope.

We allow hope to change us, to strengthen us.

We tell the stories of what could be.

We listen for God's word.

We resist the temptation to give up or give in.

We remember Mary's song.

Against all odds, we hope.

Friends, this is the day that the Lord is still making.

Let us worship holy God.

All words for worship adapted from How Does a Weary World Rejoice:
Words for Worship by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed, A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Marlett Family

How does a weary world practice love?

By sending cards and picking up the phone.

By practicing empathy, and assuming the best in others.

By learning people's stories and finding common ground.

By advocating for justice and saving a place at the table.

There are a million ways to practice love.

So today we light the candle of love as a reminder and a charge.

With God's help, may we bring love into a weary world. Amen.

All words for worship adapted from How Does a Weary World Rejoice:
Words for Worship by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed, A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org.

OPENING HYMN

Love Came Down at Christmas

UMH 242

Words: Christina G. Rossetti, 1885, Public Domain

Music: Trad. Irish melody; harm. By David Evans, 1927, Public Domain; alt. Harm. By permission of Oxford University Press

1. Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas; star and angels gave the sign.
2. Worship we the Godhead, Love incarnate, Love divine;
worship we our Jesus, but wherewith for sacred sign?
3. Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine;
love to God and all men, love for plea and gift and sign.

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1: 46-55, 67-80 (NRSV)
The Word of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Karen Flock, liturgist

A TIME FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

PREPARATION HYMN

Like a Child

TFWS 2092

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1. Like a child love would send to reveal and to mend, like a child and a friend, Jesus comes.
Like a child we may find claiming heart, soul, and mind, like a child strong and kind, Jesus comes.
2. Like a child we will meet, ragged clothes, dirty feet, like a child on the street, Jesus comes.
Like a child we once knew coming back into view, like a child born anew, Jesus comes.
3. Like a child born to pray and to show us the way, like a child here to stay, Jesus comes.
Like a child we receive all that love can conceive, like a child we believe, Jesus comes.

MESSAGE

Pastor Cindy Huskey

MUSICAL RESPONSE

Carols of Hope and Light from "Tapestry of Light" by Joseph M. Martin
VFUMC Chancel Choir; Clara Johnson, Director; Kyle Hanks, Pianist

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of all hopefulness, we know that grief, fear, and suffering abound. We know that suffering quells joy and makes it harder to hope. But we choose hope anyway. And so, in anticipation that hope will indeed prevail, we give these gifts in gratitude knowing that they will make a difference in our church, in our community, and in our world. Bless our offerings and bless our lives as we seek to live out our faith today and every day. Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Tell Out, My Soul

UMH 200

Music: Walter Greatorex, 1919. Used by permission of Oxford University Press. Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1961.
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1. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord! Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of God's word; in God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.
2. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of God's name! Make known God's might, who wondrous deeds has done;
God's mercy sure, from age to age the same; God's holy name, the Lord, the mighty One.
3. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of God's might! Powers and dominions lay their glory by;
proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight, the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.
4. Tell out, my soul, the glories of God's word! Firm is the promise and God's mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord to children's children and forevermore!

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
Kyle Hanks, Organ
Music: Rowland H. Prichard. Public Domain.

Rowland H. Prichard

Carols of Hope and Light

Rejoice, rejoice, your Light will come on Christmas day, on Christmas day.
Rejoice, rejoice and greet the Son on Christmas day in the morning.
Rejoice, rejoice, prepare the way for Christmas day, for Christmas day.
Rejoice, rejoice, declare your praise on Christmas day in the morning.

Alleluia! Arise and shine! Your Light will come, and God will send His chosen one.
Arise and shine! Your Light will come. Rejoice and see what the Lord has done.
Come raise your songs of joy and mirth. Sing of the Promise come to earth.

Let all creation lift its voice with heart and soul and voice.
Give ye heed to what we say: "News! News! Soon the Lord will come to stay.
To a lowly cattle stall, God will give a gift to all."
Lift a song of praise! Lift a song of praise!
Alleluia! Sing to God a jubilant song!

Rejoice, rejoice, your Light will come on Christmas day, on Christmas day.
Rejoice, rejoice, your Light will come on Christmas day in the morning!
Let all the people sing! Let steeples ring,
For on Christmas day, Light will come!

Prayer Requests

First UMC of North Hollywood —Pastor Chamie Delkeskamp

First UMC of Paso Robles—Pastor Joshua Zulueta

All those suffering from illness or loss of loved ones.