

## Welcome to Worship

*Sharing life in Christ with each other and our neighbors*

December 19, 2021

### Prelude

**O Come, All Ye Faithful** (FOG #76, verses 1, 3, & 4)

O Come all ye faithful  
Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold Him,  
Born the King of Angels;  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above;  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.

Yea Lord, we greet Thee,  
Born this happy morning,  
Jesus! to Thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.

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### Welcome & Announcements

#### Lighting of the Advent Candle - Love

Leader: The poet, George Herbert, wrote:

"Love bade me welcome, but my soul drew back."

It's hard to take in the enormity of God's love made flesh in Jesus Christ.

We look at the candles and enjoy the special music of the season.

It's easier to listen to the radio or buy the red cup at the coffee shop than to dwell on the truth.

The psalmist knew it long before Jesus:

"For with The Lord, there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem."

God became one of us, out of love for all of us, then and now and forever.

When we light the candle of Love, we stop in awe of God's unending love.

**People: Whatever we face in life, God's steadfast love surrounds us.**

## **Love, Love, Love**

Love, love, love -

The heart of Christ is love.

On all who come He pours His presence,

Life and love in holy essence.

Love, love, love -

The heart of Christ is love.

*(Words by Ken Bible Music: Traditional Austrian Melody; arr. by Ken Bible © 2006 by LNWhymns.com. CCLI Song #4663940)*

## **Focus**

This Sunday is the fourth week of Advent. A time when we think about light, in darkness. In the opening of his Gospel, John tells us that Jesus is the light of all men, and that the light shines in the darkness, and that the darkness has not overcome it. Jesus is the great light, the one who brings light to everyone. And to those who receive Jesus, those who believe in his name, he give the right to become children of God. Children born not of blood, nor of flesh, nor of man, but born of God.

## **Confession**

(Reading Together)

**Loving and faithful God, Jesus came to bring light and hope, but our hearts are often shrouded by darkness and despair. Jesus came to bring joy and peace, but our hearts are often encased by sorrow and turmoil. Jesus came to bring life and love, but our hearts are often hardened by resistance and contempt. As Jesus entered the world to conquer sin and death, we open our hearts in confession to be cleansed from our sinfulness and to be restored to the image of Jesus. In the Name of Jesus, we pray, Amen.**

## **Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Your sins are pardoned. The penalty is paid.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## **We Greet Each Other**

**Scripture Reading:** John 1:1-18

## **Imagine (#72)**

Who hears?

Who hears the voice of the hungry, the thirsty?

Who sees?

Who sees the tears of the suffering ones?

Imagine a King who would come through the darkness

and walk, where I walk, full of greatness,

and call me to his side,

just like a father and child.

Who knows?

Who knows the hopes that lie hidden, forgotten?

Who comes?

Who comes to lead all the children home?

Imagine a King who would come through the darkness

and walk, where I walk, full of greatness,

and call me to his side,

just like a father and child.

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## **Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (#80)**

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 the angelic host proclaim  
Christ is born in Bethlehem  
Hark the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King

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 God-head see  
Hail the incarnate deity  
Pleased as man with us to dwell  
Jesus our Emmanuel  
Hark the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King

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  
Hark the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King

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**Love Has Come!** (tune – *Bring a Torch*)

Love has come, a light in the darkness!  
Love explodes in the Bethlehem skies.  
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;  
Hear how their song of joy arises:  
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!  
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

Love is born! Come share in the wonder;  
Love is God now asleep in the hay.  
See the glow in the eyes of His mother;  
What is the name her heart is saying?  
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers;  
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

Love has come, He never will leave us!  
Love is life everlasting and free.  
Love is Jesus within and among us;  
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.  
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas;  
Love! Love! Praise to You, God on high!

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**Presenting Our Gifts to God**

## Congregational Prayer

**Message:** "The Word of God Made Flesh"

Pastor Brian Tebben

**Special Music:** The Rowes

## The Lord's Supper

### Litany:

Pastor: In the Lord's Supper, Christ offers his own crucified body and shed blood to his people, assuring them a share in his death and resurrection. By the Holy Spirit, he feeds us with his resurrection life and binds us to each other as we share one loaf and cup.

**People: We receive this food gladly, believing, as we eat, that Jesus is our life-giving food and drink and that he will come again to call us to the wedding feast of the Lamb.**

## The Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended to heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## Parting Blessing

**Angels, from the Realms of Glory** (#81, verse 5)

All creation, join in praising  
God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
Evermore your voices raising  
To the eternal Three in One.

Come, and worship, come, and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King!

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## Postlude With Opportunity for Intercessory Prayer