

December 19, 2021 Worship
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Welcome

Advent Candle lighting

Songs: *Here I Am to Worship, Shout to the North*

Call to Worship:

L: Come into God's house with a hope and a promise:

C: Despite the darkness, the light awaits us.

L: Despite what looks like the end,

C: Restoration and new life can be found here.

L: In this house we speak and listen for God's word,

C: And it accomplishes its purpose: restoration to new life.

L: Come into God's house with a hope and a promise:

C: Despite the darkness, the light awaits us.

L: We look for the one who walks among us,

C: The light that will shine...soon!

L: With hope in the one that lights our way, we worship now in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

A: Amen

Songs: *He Reigns, Lord I Lift Your Name on High*

Scripture Reading: John 1:1-18

Children's Message

Message: *What in the Word?*

Songs: *Everlasting God*

Affirmation of Faith (9:00)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and 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.

Offering

John testified to the light, reminding us that you, O God, walked among us. We strive to bring light into the world through our offerings. Receive our gifts so that all may know that you walk among us still. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Confession

L: We confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

L: Healing God,

C: We come into this time of worship, both broken and lost. We bring our worries and our fears. We bring the weight of having acted out in ways that hurt others, you, and ourselves. We wonder if there will ever be a time when light will find us. Forgive what we have done and heal

us, for the sake of the one who gave everything for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. We confess these sins as well as the sins we confess in silence...

L: God offers light and healing. God invites us into a new way of being. Despite our sin, God forgives. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority alone, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all of your sins. You are forgiven in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit! Receive and welcome God's forgiveness, for you are made clean and whole again. In Jesus' name we pray.

A: Amen!

Remember Me

Communion

God's grace fills us every time we gather to share in the meal of grace. God's light shines through us when we participate in this celebration of God's love. Come to the table that has been prepared for you.

Song: *The Potter's Hand*

Prayers and The Lord's Prayer

C: 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Ministry Opportunities

Blessing

The light of God is coming into our world to proclaim God's justice and love; That light will overcome the darkness and brings new life.

Christ our savior will redeem our world Bringing salvation to every tribe and family and culture. The Spirit equips us for service To love our neighbors as we love ourselves So that our service brings God's loving presence to the ends of the earth. With hope in a coming savior, we leave this time of worship in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

A: Amen!

Song: *You Are Good*

Dismissal

L: This worship service is over. Now let the service to others begin. Let us go in peace to love and serve our Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

Next Sunday: John 1:19-34

A few questions to consider throughout the week ...

- What is a word?
- What point is John making?
- What makes the Gospel of John different?
- How does life come into being?