



Consider the following options to center yourself for worship:

**BREATHING PRAYER:** (Based on Psalm 80:3)

*IN FOR A COUNT OF 4: **Restore Us, O God...***

*OUT FOR A COUNT OF 4: **That We May Be Saved.***

**REFLECT ON QUOTE**

*"Christmas is not just a day, an event to be observed and speedily forgotten. It is a spirit which should permeate every part of our lives."* ~ William Parks

**READ SCRIPTURE**

*Isaiah 7:10-16     Matthew 1:18-25*

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

December 21, 2025

**Fourth Sunday Of Advent**

PRELUDE                      *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*                      arr. Lynette Maynard  
Trumpets – Cliff Lyons & Steve Reints                      Timpani – Melissa Pryor  
Trombones – Ernest Lopez & Brian Linares                      Organ – Jerry Bursch  
Cymbals Rhonda-Budlong Reints

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WELCOME / OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAITH AND SERVICE

Pastor Matt

\*Please rise in body and spirit.

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor Matt

This is the fourth Sunday of Advent, a time to rejoice in the wondrous things that God is doing.

**Our hearts are filled with the hope that is coming into the world.**

The time is fast approaching, not for parties or presence, but for the awareness of God's loving gift to us--the gift of the Christ child.

**Help slow us down, Lord, that we may realize that your gift of love is at the center of our lives and our celebrations.**

Thanks be to God who again reminds us of God's eternal love.

**Open our hearts, O Lord, to receive your blessed gift.**

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\*HYMN

People, Look East (v 1-3)

UMH 202

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1. People, look east. The time is near  
of the crowning of the year.

Make your house fair as you are able,  
trim the hearth and set the table.

People, look east and sing today:

Love, the Guest, is on the way.

2. Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,  
one more seed is planted there:

Give up your strength the seed to nourish,  
that in course the flower may flourish.

People, look east and sing today:

Love, the Rose, is on the way.

3. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,  
one more light the bowl shall brim,  
shining beyond the frosty weather,  
bright as sun and moon together.

People, look east and sing today:

Love, the Star, is on the way.

\*Please rise in body and spirit.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Debbi Edwards

Today, we come face to face with the scandal of Advent: Mary, the unmarried mother; God Incarnate growing in Mary's womb as a vulnerable baby; Joseph contemplating leaving Mary because of her pregnancy; God's love at work in ways that society and propriety could not understand; God calling Mary and Joseph to faithfulness despite the fear of disgrace.

**With Mary and Joseph, we choose to wait, watch, and listen for the way of Love instead of responding in fear to the world's judgment.**

We light this candle of love as a sign of our faithfulness as we seek, find, and follow Emmanuel, God with us.

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Light Candle for 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

HYMN

Be The Light (verse 4)

Tune: Away in the Manger

Lyrics by Megan Waters, © 2025 Mary Scifres Ministries

Be a light of love, glowing and pure.  
A gift from above  
that will always endure.  
Let the love that you give  
light the world with its grace.  
In all of our hearts,  
God prepares a place.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

\*HYMN

Blessed Be The God of Israel

UMH 209

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1 Blessed be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free,  
who visits and redeems us, and grants us liberty.

\*Please rise in body and spirit.

The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;  
God shall fulfill the promise to bring our people peace.

2 Now from the house of David a child of grace is given;  
a Savior comes among us to raise us up to heaven.  
Before him goes the herald, forerunner in the way,  
the prophet of salvation, the harbinger of day.

3 On prisoners of darkness the sun begins to rise,  
the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes,  
to guide the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace;  
O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Rev. Dr Amanda Burr

With laughing hearts and joyous hope, we come to you, O God. With tired souls and withered dreams, we come to you, O God. In our joy and in our sorrow, we turn to you, O God. Renew us with your love. Gather us into your strong embrace, that we may know your presence and rejoice in your promised coming. With hopeful expectation, we pray. Amen.

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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 and ever. Amen.**

CHORAL ANTHEM

How Far Is It To Bethlehem?

arr. Mack Wilberg

Chancel Choir - Jerry Bursch, Director

Violin - Jeannette Manthey Vocal Solo – Amanda Burr

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SCRIPTURE READINGS *Isaiah 7:10-16 - Matthew 1:18-25*

Pastor Matt

Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, “Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.” Then Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

“Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

Musical Offerings:

*God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen* arr. Joel Raney  
Piano Duet - Rhonda-Budlong Reints and Jerry Bursch

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He Is Born  
Bell Choir - Jerry Bursch, Director

arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

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Ave Maria  
Violin - Jeannette Manthey    Clavinova - Jerry Bursch

arr. Mark Hayes

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Ding Dong Merrily On High  
Trumpet - Steve Reints    Clavinova - Jerry Bursch

Arr. Kevin Norbury

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I Saw Three Ships  
Vocal – Janet Wysong    Clavinova – Jerry Bursch

Arr. Richard Walters

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We live out our membership vows by offering our prayers, our presence, our service, our gifts, and our witness. In this way, we glorify God with our whole lives

OFFERTORY

Somebody Build A Manger  
Chancel Choir – Jerry Bursch, Director

arr. Joel Raney

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**\*DOXOLOGY** *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*      (UM Hymnal 94)  
Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below. Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Dr. Amanda Burr

**Gracious God, we remember that we are called to belong to you. As we offer our gifts, we dedicate them to your service and the spread of your**

**\*Please rise in body and spirit.**

**good news. May our lives reflect the grace and peace that we are about to receive again through the birth of Baby Jesus. Strengthen us to live lives of faithfulness and to use these offerings for impact across the global community. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen**

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SPECIAL MUSIC                      The First Nowell                      arr. Doug Andrews  
Trumpets – Cliff Lyons & Steve Reints                      Clavinova – Jerry Bursch  
Trombones – Ernest Lopez & Brian Linares

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\*HYMN:                      Love Came Down at Christmas                      UMH 242

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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 neighbor, love for plea and gift and sign.

BENEDICTION                      Pastor Matt

POSTLUDE                      Prepare the Royal Highway                      arr. Robert A. Hobby  
Trumpets – Cliff Lyons & Steve Reints                      Timpani – Melissa Pryor  
Trombones – Ernest Lopez & Brian Linares                      Organ – Jerry Bursch  
Cymbals Rhonda-Budlong Reints

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