

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2022 – 10:55 A.M.

*Please stand as you are able

ENTRANCE

MEDITATIVE MUSIC

Jeanne Banks, Pianist

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Will Waller

CHIMING THE HOUR

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Angels We Have Heard on High—Larson

Jubilant Ringers

ACOLYTE MINISTRY

GREETING

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Bill Cooper, Liturgist

L: We are waiting on you, God. We are still waiting.

**P: The darkness is deeper, but look! The star is beginning to shine.
The everlasting light is creeping closer.**

L: Hope is in the air. Peace is promised. Joy is on the tips of our tongues.
Love is coming. Love divine, all loves excelling.

P: We are waiting on love. And Love is waiting on us.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

O Come, All Ye Faithful

No. 234

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

No. 881

BLESSING OF SUPPLIES

INVITATION TO THE CHILDREN

Where Children Belong

TFWS No. 2233

This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshipping throng.

Water, God's Word, bread and cup, prayer, and song: This is where children belong.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Rev. Waller

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

L: Isaiah says, "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" (Isaiah 7:14 NRSV).

P: God wants us to experience God's presence, even when we think we can handle life on our own. God sends us signs of God's presence with us; all we need to do is keep our eyes open and look.

L: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear 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 borne a son; and he named him Jesus (Matthew 1:23-25 NRSV).

P: We light these candles, the candle of joyous hope, of proclaimed peace, of deep everlasting joy, and today of presence that speaks of love, as a sign that no matter our circumstance, we know we are not alone.

(Afterwards, children in preschool through 2nd grade may go to Children's Church.)

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 1:1-9

New Testament pg. 86

Liturgist: The Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Christmas On Your Radio: I'll Be Home for Christmas

Rev. Waller

OFFERTORY

How Far Is It to Bethlehem—Page

(Please tear off the pew pad attendance sheet and place in the offering plate.)

*THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

No. 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 THANKSGIVING

ANTHEM

Carry Me to Bethlehem—Raney

Chancel Choir

PRAYER REQUESTS

CALL TO PRAYER

O Little Town of Bethlehem (vs. 4)

No. 230

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE 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.

(continued on back)

SENDING FORTH

*CLOSING HYMN

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

No. 218

*THE ACOLYTE MINISTRY

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

As We Go

As we go, may your spirit go before us. As we go, may we follow where you lead.

May we live what we have learned, share the message we have heard,
and be a light unto the world, as we go.

*GOING FORTH

Rev. Waller

*POSTLUDE

Mrs. Meeks

CCLI License Number 2745989

Serving Today:

Liturgist: Bill Cooper

Greeters: Nathan, Jovie and Georgia Angle

Acolyte: Jovie Angle

Usher: Linda Handy

Children's Church: Jane Waller

Nursery: Ina Clements

Counters: Dan Walters, Jack Watts

Serving Next Week (December 25):

Greeter: Lindsay McDaniel

Ushers: Benny and Martha Sue Gibson

Counters: Linda Handy, Charlotte Hill

Prayer Concerns:

Our country, our church and those serving in our armed forces; People of Ukraine; Jack Dillon; Jason Lavinder; Hazel Henderson; Peggie Foster; Kathleen Higgins; Lillie Hatchett; Jerry Davis; Barbara Huffman; Lynn Cooper; Anna Campbell; Betty Dillon; CO Brickey; Dick Shoemaker; Jennifer Cooper; John Cooper; Arnold Dillon, Sr.; Paul and Barbara Scaffaci (Nancy Middaugh); Don Angle (Steve Angle); Cheryl Peck (Sandra Funk); Janis Odom (DJ Pritchard); Becky Bennett (Jennie Ardis); Mike Shea (Enna Roseberry); Debbie Ford (Ben Whitesell); and Dennis Holland (Cyndee Holland).

Forget-Me-Nots:

Eleanor Woody

Meetings and Announcements:

- Today, December 18** **3:00 p.m.**, Youth Christmas Party/Polar Bear Plunge at Greg and Linda Dunlap's home
- Monday, December 19** **7:00 p.m.**, Boy Scouts
- Thursday, December 22** **Serve lunch at Stepping Stone Soup Kitchen**
- Thursday, December 22-Monday, December 26**, Church Office Closed
- Saturday, December 24** **7:00 p.m.**, Christmas Eve Service
- Next Sunday, Dec. 25** **10:00 a.m.**, Combined Small Group for all ages
 10:55 a.m., Christmas Day Worship Service
- Tuesday, December 27** **Serve lunch at Stepping Stone Soup Kitchen**
- Thursday, December 29-Monday, January 2**, Church Office Closed
- Sunday, January 1** **Following Worship**, Taking down the Chrismon Tree and other sanctuary decorations. Subway sandwiches will be available for lunch and nursery will be provided.

Assistive listening devices are available outside the sanctuary.

Youth, bring your towels and your fortitude today for the annual Christmas Party and Polar Bear Plunge. This year we'll be at the home of Greg and Linda Dunlap at SML. They do have a hot tub but in order to qualify for the Frozen Toes, Nose and Elbows Award, you have to be all the way in SML to qualify.

You are invited to the Christmas Eve service on Saturday night at 7:00 p.m. Bring a friend! All of the night's offering goes towards Stepping Stone Mission and their goal of feeding every hungry person and connecting them with resources to enhance their way of life.

The January/February edition of the Upper Room is available on the rack in the narthex.

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Will Waller, Pastor
Lynn M. Meeks, Director of Music/Diaconal Minister
Jeanne Banks, Pianist
Valerie Latimer, Administrative Assistant
Jennifer Ardis, Nursery Attendant
Rebecca Dillon, Children's Church Coordinator
Brad Hodges, Custodian