

WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP WITH US

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19, 2021

9:30 a.m.

BOLD PRINT = congregation

Thank you for turning off your cell phone for worship.

The Ringing of the Bell Gathers Us to Worship

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PRELUDE

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE

Stewart Family

*We light again these candles that remind us of God's gifts of HOPE, PEACE, and JOY
Advent is the time to prepare for the coming of God's love, shown to us in Jesus Christ.
We light the candle of LOVE to remind us that Jesus is God's perfect love in human form -
God's love that redeems us and shows us the way.*

*Let us pray. O God of Love, Emmanuel,
thank You for coming to us in the flesh to show us how to love. Give us courage to love
others as You love us. Help us to remember that Your love will never come to an end.
Amen.*

HYMN

Love Has Come!

Words by Ken Bible

Music: French Carol Melody, attr. to Saboly, 17th c., arr. by Ken Bible (Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella!)

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

*Let us turn from those things that would keep us from preparing our hearts and our lives for
Christ's love to be born.*

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**How amazing is Your love, great God! You are not distant from us in some faraway
heaven; You come close to us in a child born of simple parents and cradled in a borrowed
bed of hay. We confess that we could have shown love this past week, but instead kept
ourselves busy with other things. We spoke without thinking and hurt someone.
We treated the gifts and greetings and baking as chores, leaving out the most important
ingredients – love & caring. We are sorry.
Forgive us, and accept our worship. Help us prepare the way for You, and learn to love
all Your people with that perfect love which casts out all fear. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

Silent Prayers of Reconciliation

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

... In the name of Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

BLESSING THE ST. NICHOLAS SOCKS

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 debts
as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For
Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

Children are excused to go to their Sunday school classes.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE

MICAH 5:2-5A

FIRST READING

Luke 1: 39-55

The Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

SUNG RESPONSE

My Soul Gives Glory

No. 119, vss. 1-2

SECOND READING

Luke 1: 46-55

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,

GOD IS MAGNIFICENT!

*and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for You have looked with favor on the lowliness of
Your servant.*

GOD HAS LOOKED ON ME WITH FAVOR

*Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great
things for me,*

GOD HAS DONE GREAT THINGS FOR ME

and holy is Your name.

HOLY IS GOD'S NAME.

Your mercy is for those who fear You, from generation to generation.

GOD IS MERCIFUL

*You have shown strength with Your arm; You have scattered the proud in the thoughts of
their hearts.*

... SCATTERED THE OPPRESSORS WITH ALL THEIR EVIL PLANS

You have brought down the powerful from their thrones,

HUMBLED THE HAUGHTY

and lifted up the lowly;

LIFTED THE LOWLY

You have filled the hungry with good things,

THEY ARE HUNGRY NO MORE