A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP  
The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2022  8:30 a.m.

*All who are able may stand.

**Bold type spoken by the congregation**

GATHERING...  

The Prelude  
**Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne** arr. Mark Hayes

The Welcome and Announcements

The Introit  
**Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates**

The Lighting of the Advent Candle: LOVE

The Old Testament Lesson:  
Isaiah 7:10-16

Prayer

Sung Response  
Hymn 110 verse 1  

Love has come; a light in the darkness!  
Love shines forth 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.

Spoken Response:  
People of God, in love,  
Let us walk in the light of the Lord!

*The Hymn 133  
**O Come All Ye Faithful**

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!  
REFRAIN: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord  
True God from true God, Light from light eternal, born of a virgin, a mortal he comes; very God, begotten, not created!  
REFRAIN  
Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation; sing all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest!  
REFRAIN  
Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be all glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! REFRAIN!

*The Prayer of Confession  
God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in the darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light shining upon us, or trusted the good news to always be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less than you intend. Forgive our doubts that end up diminishing your grace. Renew in us wonder and hope so that we may live into your fullness and order our lives by your measures of justice. Amen.

*The Assurance of Pardon  
The Psalmist prayed: O God of hosts, restore us.  
God's face shines upon us and in God’s light, we are saved.

*The Peace and Greeting  
(Please stand to greet one another in the name of Christ. For those worshiping at home, please share Christ's peace with someone outside Your home this week.)
HEARING THE WORD OF GOD...

The Prayer for Illumination

The Psalter Lesson: Psalm 80:1-7,17-19

The Anthem

The Gift of Love

Dorothy Mondak, soprano

Maxcine Posegate

The Epistle Lesson: Romans 1:1-7

A Moment With the Children

*The Hymn 121

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin, Where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.
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!

The Gospel Lesson: Matthew 1:18-25

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

The Sermon

Christmas by Way of Matthew

Kim Clayton

*The Affirmation of Faith

A child has been born for us, a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it with justice and righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The Prayers of Thanksgiving

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.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE IN GOD'S NAME...

*The Hymn 119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king. Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinner 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, off-spring of the virgin’s
womb. Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the incarnate deity. pleased in flesh 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”!

*The Charge & Benediction

Postlude

People Look East

Please be seated in personal reflection until the Postlude ends.

The flowers today are given to the glory of God and in celebration of the 60th wedding anniversary of David and Doris Johnson.

Self-service assistive listening devices are located on top of the bookcase at the rear of the Sanctuary on the Princess Anne St. side.

Childcare is available for infants through 4-year-olds. The nursery is located on the 1st floor of the Education Building, directly behind this building. Children are welcome to remain in the Sanctuary for the entire service or go to the nursery at any time during the worship service.

Restrooms are located in the education building, down the first set of stairs, next to the kitchen.

Today’s Worship Leaders:

Preacher, Kim Clayton
Liturgists: Brittany Harvey, Andrew Kuliasha
Choir Masters: Mary Ann and Larry Casey
Organist: Amy Shirk

The Advent Lighters are The Howe family and Eland family at the 8:30 service and the 1st-2nd LIFT class at the 11:00 service.

O Come, All Ye Faithful – Text: John Francis Wade, c. 1743; trans. Frederick Oakeley, 1841, alt.; Public Domain
O Little Town of Bethlehem – Text: Phillips Brooks, 1868
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing-Jesus the Light of the World – Text: Stanzas, Charles Wesley, 1739; ref., George B. Elderkin, 1890; Public Domain

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