

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## WELCOME, ALL WORSHIPERS

WHOEVER YOU ARE, AND WHEREVER YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE.

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"ALL WENT TO THEIR OWN TOWNS TO BE REGISTERED." LUKE 2:3  
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(\* ) INDICATES WHEN THOSE WHO ARE ABLE MAY STAND.

### PRELUDE

### WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(PLEASE COMPLETE THE FRIENDSHIP BOOK AS IT IS PASSED DURING ANNOUNCEMENTS; THEN PASS IT TOWARD THE CENTER AISLE.)

### ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING (RESPONSIVE LITANY)

LEADER: DURING ADVENT WE SEE GOD'S LOVE FOR US EMBODIED IN OUR SAVIOR'S BIRTH.

**ALL: CHRIST IS OUR LIGHT AND THE SOURCE OF EVERLASTING LOVE.**

LEADER: ADVENT CALLS US TO LOVE OTHERS WITH PATIENCE AND KINDNESS.

**ALL: CHRIST IS OUR LIGHT AND THE SOURCE OF EVERLASTING LOVE.**

LEADER: ADVENT CALLS US TO BE SLOW TO ANGER AND QUICK TO FORGIVE.

**ALL: CHRIST IS OUR LIGHT AND THE SOURCE OF EVERLASTING LOVE.**

LEADER: ADVENT REMINDS US THAT CHRIST COMMANDED US TO LOVE AS HE LOVED.

**ALL: CHRIST IS OUR LIGHT AND THE SOURCE OF EVERLASTING LOVE.**

### \*OPENING HYMN: #116 O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL (VERSES 6-7)

*PSALTERIOLUM CANTIONUM CATHOLICARUM, 1710* BASED ON ANCIENT ANTIPHONS FROM ADVENT VESPERS TRANSL. JOHN MASON NEALE, 1851, AND OTHERS; ALT. ST. 2, 7, TRANSL. HENRY SLOANE COFFIN, 1916; ALT.

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)

PAT LABADIE, LAY READER

LEADER: HAVE YOU HEARD THE GOOD NEWS?

**ALL: WHAT DO YOU MEAN "GOOD NEWS"?**

LEADER: THE LORD HAS VISITED HIS PEOPLE AND GRANTED US BOTH GRACE AND MERCY.

**ALL: LET US CELEBRATE GOD'S PRESENCE AMONG US WITH SINGING AND WORSHIP!**

### \*OPENING PRAYER

**ALL: GOD OF ALL THE EARTH, YOU VISITED THE WORLD WITH YOUR WORD AT THE BEGINNING OF TIME, SETTING IN MOTION THE UNIVERSE. AND NOW YOU VISIT THE WORLD AGAIN, THE WORD MADE FLESH. IT IS MORE THAN WE COULD ASK, MORE THAN WE DESERVE, AND MORE THAN WE CAN UNDERSTAND. WE OFFER OUR PROFOUND THANKS AND OUR DEEPEST GRATITUDE. AMEN.**

### \*THE GLORIA PATRI (SUNG)

**GLORY BE TO THE FATHER, AND TO THE SON, AND TO THE HOLY GHOST; AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING, IS NOW, AND EVER SHALL BE, WORLD WITHOUT END. AMEN.**

WORDS: ANONYMOUS, 4TH CENTURY. MUSIC: HENRY GREATORREX. THIS SELECTION IS IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

### ANTHEM

SCRIPTURE LESSON: LUKE 2:1-20

SERMON: "CHRISTMAS JOURNEYS"

REV. DICK HOTCHKIN

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (DEBTS AND DEBTORS)

\*HYMN: #110 NOW BLESS THE GOD OF ISRAEL (VERSES 1 & 3)

RUTH DUCK, 1985

### SHARING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

LEADER: LET US GIVE AS EACH IS ABLE FROM THE FULLNESS OF OUR GRATITUDE TO GOD.

### OFFERTORY

**\*DOXOLOGY PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW.  
PRAISE GOD, ALL CREATURES HERE BELOW.  
PRAISE GOD ABOVE, YE HEAVENLY HOST.  
PRAISE FATHER, SON, AND HOLY GHOST. AMEN**

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION (ALL): ALL GOOD GIFTS ARE FROM GOD.  
WE SHARE OUR GIFTS WITH GRATITUDE. MAY WE GIVE WITH PASSION FOR  
JUSTICE, AND WITH GOD'S LOVE GUIDING OUR PATHS. AMEN**

\*CLOSING HYMN: #117 LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, O MIGHTY GATES (ALL VERSES)

GEORG WEISSEL, 1641 TRANSL. CATHERINE WINKWORTH, 1865; ALT.

### \*CLOSING PRAYER

### \*BENEDICTION

\*UNISON RESPONSE:

**AND GOD WILL RAISE YOU UP ON EAGLE'S WINGS, BEAR YOU ON THE BREATH OF DAWN, MAKE YOU TO SHINE LIKE THE SUN, AND HOLD YOU IN THE PALM OF GOD'S HAND. AMEN.**

### POSTLUDE

**OUR APPRECIATION IS EXTENDED TO MEMBERS AND FRIENDS  
WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP MINISTRY**

**LAY READER:** PAT LABADIE  
**USHERS:** NANCY & ASHLEY WEDGE  
**FELLOWSHIP HOSTS:** RON & LYNN BORKE

**ALTAR GUILD:** VICKY LINDSAY  
**GREETER:** DAN KIBBE

**THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR**

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 22 10:00 AM</b>	<b>WORSHIP SERVICE</b>
		<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 24 6:30 PM</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS CORALE SERVICE</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 24 7:00 PM</b>	<b>CANDLELIGHT SERVICE</b>
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 28 3:30 TO 5:30 PM</b>	<b>FELLOWSHIP WITH THE LABADIES</b>

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- ❖ PLEASE CHECK THE CARDS AND CARE LETTERS IN THE MIDDLE HALLWAY.
- ❖ ANNUAL MEETING IS JANUARY 26, 2025. PLEASE HAVE YOUR REPORTS IN BY JANUARY 6.
- ❖ PLAN TO STAY AFTER THE JANUARY 5 SERVICE TO TAKE DOWN THE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS.
- ❖ WE ARE IN NEED OF LAY READERS. PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE IF YOU CAN BE AVAILABLE FOR THIS IMPORTANT MINISTRY.
- ❖ CHECK THE USHER SCHEDULE IN THE NEWSLETTER. FEEL FREE TO VOLUNTEER IF YOU SEE WHERE IT MAY BE NEEDED.
- ❖ PLEASE SEE NANCY WEDGE FOR GREAT STOCKING STUFFERS: DISH CLOTHS FOR \$2.50 AND/OR CORN BROOMS FOR \$20 EACH. ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE CHURCH.
- ❖ WE ARE ONCE AGAIN COLLECTING WARM HATS, MITTENS, SCARVES, AND SOCKS FOR THOSE IN NEED THIS WINTER. YOU MAY PLACE THEM ON THE TREE ACROSS FROM THE PASTOR'S OFFICE.
- ❖ FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR DECEMBER; JELLO, PUDDING (ANY FLAVOR), CHICKEN OR TURKEY PACKAGES, CANS OF GRAVY, SPAGHETTIOS, RAVIOLI, PASTA RINGS, KIDS CEREAL (RICE KRISPIES, CAPT. CRUNCH, FRUIT LOOPS), CRANBERRY SAUCE. THEY CURRENTLY HAVE 141 FAMILIES SIGNED UP FOR CHRISTMAS ASSISTANCE.

SUNDAY WORSHIP LIVE-STREAMED AND RECORDED -- OUR SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES ARE LIVE-STREAMED, SHOWN ON THE INTERNET, AS THEY ARE HAPPENING AND RECORDED FOR VIEWING ONLINE LATER. PEOPLE IN THE SANCTUARY ATTENDING THE SUNDAY SERVICE MAY BE SEEN AS PART OF THE LIVE-STREAM AND RECORDING.

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A UNISEX HANDICAP-ACCESSIBLE RESTROOM IS LOCATED THROUGH THE DOORS TO YOUR LEFT AS YOU EXIT THE SANCTUARY. A HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE LADIES RESTROOM IS NEAR THE LOCKWOOD STREET ENTRANCE. A MEN'S ROOM IS IN THE MIDDLE HALLWAY.  
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# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**December 22, 2024**

*As an Open and Affirming congregation,  
we welcome people as they are,  
share Jesus as He is, and serve  
our community and the world in love.*



*The Rev. Dr. Richard E. Hotchkin, Transition Minister*

*The Rev. Dr. H. Robert Case, Pastor Emeritus*

*Organist & Choir Director: Kat Tomaszewski*

*Office Administrator: Nancy Ross*

*Treasurer: Denise Fusina*

*Custodian: Mike LaMarre*

**Office hours: 9:00am — 1:00pm, Monday — Thursday**

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