

# Order of Worship for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19, 2021, 8:30 am

You are invited to speak the words in **bold**. + Please stand as you are able.

## Musicians

Chris Garofalo, Organ & Piano • Chris DiMarco, Cantor

---

### Prelude

*Adeste, fideles – Pastorale*

arranged by David Schelat

© 2014 Oxford University Press

---

### Welcome

with Pastor Jeremiah

---

### + Call to Worship

with Pastor Jeremiah

We are seeking—

**deeper faith,  
a place to belong,  
the feeling that God is here in this room.**

We are seeking—

**joy that overflows,  
the movement of the Spirit,  
a hand to hold, when alone in the dark.**

We are seeking—

**the freedom to be,  
the courage to love,  
the conviction to act in the face of injustice.**

We are seeking, but here in this space,

**We are found.**

Take a deep breath. This is your sanctuary.

**God is here. We are found. Amen.**

---

### + Opening Hymn

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

United Methodist Hymnal #384

verses 1-3

#### Verse 1

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven, to earth come down;  
fix in us thy humble dwelling;  
all thy faithful mercies crown!  
Jesus thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation;  
enter every trembling heart.

#### Verse 2

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit  
into every troubled breast!  
Let us all in thee inherit;

# Order of Worship for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19, 2021, 8:30 am

let us find that second rest.  
Take away our bent to sinning;  
Alpha and Omega be;  
end of faith, as its beginning,  
set our hearts at liberty.

## Verse 3

Come, Almighty to deliver,  
let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return and never,  
nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray and praise thee without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.

## Call to Confession

with Pastor Hannah

## Prayer of Confession

*God of safe spaces, we wish we were more like Mary, who in the face of great change, went and sought help. She did not wait for help to find her; she walked to the shelter she needed. Too often we wait silently for the world to change around us instead of speaking up for the things we need. Forgive us for failing to care for ourselves the way you would care for us. Give us the courage to be more like Mary.*

*God of safe places, we wish we were more like Elizabeth, who greeted Mary with laughter and contagious joy. How many people have crossed our doorstep and how many times have we failed to see them? Give us the courage of Mary, and the grace of Elizabeth. Gratefully we pray, amen.*

## Words of Forgiveness

with Pastor Hannah

## Candle Lighting

with Emily, Sean & Tyler Les

God's love is like an open door.  
God's love is the streetlight that guides us home.  
God's love is a warm bed to fall into.  
God's love is a table with room for you.  
God's love is a crackling fireplace.  
God's love is the sun that streams through the windows.  
God's love is the roof over our heads  
and the floor beneath our feet.  
God's love is a home for you and me,  
for neighbors and strangers, for family and friends,  
for enemies and partners.  
God's love is a home for all.  
Today we light the candle of love  
to remind us of this truth.  
May it burn brightly in this space  
and even brighter in our hearts. Amen.

# Order of Worship for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19, 2021, 8:30 am

---

## Song

*Where Children Belong*

The Faith We Sing #2233

©1999 Abingdon Press, administered by The Copyright Co

This, this is where children belong,  
welcomed as part of the worshiping throng.  
Water, God's Word,  
bread and cup, prayer, and song:  
this is where children belong.

---

## Time for Young Disciples

with Beth Hagemeyer

---

## Scripture

with Bob Kinsman

*Luke 1:39-55*

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup> where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup> and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup> And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup> For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that

there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,<sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup> His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. <sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. <sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

<sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. <sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,<sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

---

## Song of Preparation

*All Earth Is Waiting*

United Methodist Hymnal #210

verses 2 & 4

### Verse 2

Thus says the prophet to those of Israel,  
"A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel,"  
for his name is "God with us," our brother shall be,  
with him hope will blossom once more within our hearts.

# Order of Worship for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19, 2021, 8:30 am

## Verse 4

In lowly stable the Promised One appeared  
yet, feel his presence throughout the earth today,  
for he lives in all Christians and is with us now;  
again, with his coming he brings us liberty.

---

## Sermon

*Seeking Sanctuary*  
with Pastor Jeremiah

---

## Hymn of Response

*Sanctuary*  
The Faith We Sing #2164  
sing twice

Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary,  
pure and holy, tried and true.  
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

---

## Prayers of the People

with Pastor Hannah

---

## Lord's Prayer

with Pastor Hannah

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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.

---

## Offering Invitation

with Pastor Jeremiah

---

## Offertory

*Prelude XIX in A major*  
from *The Well Tempered Clavier Book II*  
by Johann Sebastian Bach

Public Domain

---

## + Doxology

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*  
United Methodist Hymnal #94

Adaptation ©1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

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!

# Order of Worship for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19, 2021, 8:30 am

---

**Announcements**  
with Pastor Hannah

---

**+ Hymn of Sending Forth**

*Joy to the World*

United Methodist Hymnal #246, verses 1,2 & 4

**Verse 1**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

**Verse 2**

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

**Verse 4**

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness,

and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

---

**+ Benediction**  
with Pastor Jeremiah

---

**Postlude**

*Menuett in G minor*

by George Frederic Handel  
arranged Wilhelm Kempff

© 1954 Associated Music Publishers