

WORSHIP GATHERING AND CELEBRATION

4th Sunday of Advent—LOVE 11:00 A.M.

(Please be seated, silence cell phones and quietly prepare for worship.)

PRELUDE: “Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming and Shepherd's Carol”

Whitworth and Held

THE CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE: THE CANDLE OF LOVE

Advent Candle Lighters **Marianne Genovesi**

CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT: “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” TWC 133 (v1)

RESPONSIVE LITANY

Leader: As we observe the completion of the season of Advent, we use the words of Christina Rossetti in her poem: LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMAS! Please join me:

People: Love came down at Christmas; Love, a lovely love divine!

Love was born at Christmas; stars and angels gave the sign!

Leader: Worship we the Godhead, Love incarnate, Love divine!

Worship we our Jesus; but wherewith the sacred sign.

People: Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine.

Love to God: women and men! Love for plea and gift and sign!

Leader: We light this, the fourth Candle of Advent - THE CANDLE OF LOVE!

***OPENING HYMN: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”**

TWC 171

CALL TO CONFESSION

Moses writes in our first lesson, “I will proclaim the name of the Lord; ascribe greatness to our God! The Rock, his work is perfect, and all his ways are just. He is the God of faithfulness who does no wrong.” Therefore, with contrite and broken hearts, we confess our sin.

UNISON PRAYERS OF CONFESSION “Ready for Christmas?”

Rev. Dr. John G. Hamilton

Lord, I'm ready for Christmas .

The lights are up

... but I am looking for the Light of the world?

The music is playing

... but do I hear angel's song?

The tree is up and decorated

... but do I let it point me heavenward to You?

The presents are wrapped

...but al I ready to receive Your present to me-

Your only Son?

**Lord, I'm not quite ready for Christmas, after all
Help me to prepare a place within me
for Your Son to come and be born anew.
Thank You, that though
I am not yet ready for Christmas
Christmas is waiting for me. Amen**

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION (pause)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

John the Baptist came proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. He pointed to the one who is mightier—Christ Jesus our Lord. Jesus loves you. Jesus died for you. Jesus lives for you. And Jesus forgives your every sin. And so we say to the world. All flesh shall see the salvation of our God!

***THE GLORIA PATRI**

TWC 805

A CAROL FOR CHRISTMAS “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear” arr. S. Stokes
The Chime Choir, Roger Dimit, Director

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

1ST SCRIPTURE READING:

Isaiah 42:1-4

SOLO:

“Mary, Did You Know”

Lowry and Greene

Vocalist; Philip Aley

2ND SCRIPTURE READING:

Luke 2:1-20

SERMON:

"Miracle in the Mess"

Pastor John G. Hamilton

***THE APOSTLES' CREED**

***HYMN:**

“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”

TWC 156

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

In thanks for all God's gifts, and in response to the tears of so many of God's children, we now gather all that we have brought to share, praying that these resources will accomplish much good among us and far beyond our individual reach.

OFFERTORY: “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

Polish Carol

***DOXOLOGY**

TWC 809

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Loving God, we would not weary you with empty words or with routine tips of obligation. You have granted us life with such abundant possibilities that we can never do enough to express our gratitude. You have honored us by calling us saints and apostles. Therefore we offer ourselves and our abundance in the confidence that you will continue to provide for us in whatever circumstances we face. Use us as ministers of your grace. Amen.

***HYMN** **“It Came Upon The Midnight Clear”** **TWC 170**

***CHARGE AND BENEDICION**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:**

“God Be With You Till We Meet Again” TWC 840

***POSTLUDE.** “ O Come, All Ye Faithful” .arr. Edward Broughton

***Please stand if you are able**