

**4th Sunday of Advent
December 20, 2020**

Candles and Carols
God invites us to enter His presence

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Preparation for Worship (*Time for Silent Preparation*)

! Call to Worship

Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sound the alarm on my holy hill.
Let all who live in the land tremble,
for the day of the Lord is coming.
It is close at hand.
Come, let us worship God.
Let us worship the Triune God. Amen.

! Invocation

Father in heaven,
our hearts desire the warmth of your love,
and our minds are searching for the light of your Word.
Increase our longing for Christ, our Savior,
and give us the strength to grow in love,
that the dawn of his coming
may find us rejoicing in his presence
and welcoming the light of his truth.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Call to Light

*O come, O come, Emmanuel.
Come to our hearts and in our presence dwell.
We wait in hope for peace once again.
Return to us the joy of Bethlehem.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come in love, our darkness to dispel.*

Light of Hope

*Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to see Thy people free.
From our fears and sins release us. Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.*

*Come, Thou hope of our salvation, Promised One by Prophets foretold.
With sincere anticipation, hearts like flowers before Thee unfold.
As the saints who came before us, patiently we call on Thee.
Lifting our voices, we join in the chorus of the faithful who long for Thee.*

Of the faithful who long for Thee Alleluia!

Light of Peace

Reading

String Quartet

*Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all ye nations, rise join the triumph of the skies.
With angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."*

*Lamb of God and Child of Peace, born that war and strife may cease.
Born our Brother to become, born that we might live as one.
Born that we may one day see peace on earth and harmony.
Born to us, 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!"*

Sing gloria to the newborn King!

Light of Joy

*Born is the Child in manger small whom God has sent to save us all.
How great our joy! Great our joy! Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!
Glory to God Who reigns on high! Glory to God Who reigns on high!*

*Source of our joy, to Thee we raise our grateful songs of endless praise.
How great our joy! Great our joy! Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!
Glory to God Who reigns on high! Glory to God Who reigns on high!*

*Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo! Glory to God in the heavens on high!
Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo! Glory to God, peace on earth is born this night!
Jesus, the gift from heaven above, fills all our hearts with joy and love.
How great our joy! Great our joy! Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!
Glory to God Who reigns on high! Glory to God Who reigns on high!*

Light of Love

Reading

*Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine.
Love came down at Christmas, star and angels gave the sign.*

*Love was born at Christmas in a simple cattle stall.
Love is born this Christmas in the hearts of one and all.*

*Love be our example, love be yours and love be mine;
Love for one another with the love of God divine.*

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 9:2; John 3:16-21

2 The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.

3 ¹⁶ "For God so loved the world,^[a] that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. ²⁰ For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. ²¹ But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God."

Sermon

*"The Promise of Love"
Rev. Tim Latham*

Prayers of the People

Light of Christ

String Quartet

*Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light,
Radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.*

*Silent night, holy night, fill our hearts with Thy light.
In the darkness may we shine with the promise of love divine;
Light of heaven on earth, light of heaven on earth.*

*Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light.
With the angels let us sing alleluia to our King.
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.*

The Savior is born.

Benediction & Blessing

Postlude

Christmas Medley on Strings

String Quartet

Fairview Vocal Ensemble

*Carol Covert, Kelly Fox, Adrienne Boyance
Gary Covert, Pat Adams, Jim Pomager, Dan Baker*

Narrator

Benjamin Johnson

Musicians

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| <i>Gloria Harrison</i> | <i>Violin I</i> |
| <i>Grace Pehlert</i> | <i>Violin II</i> |
| <i>Marianne Richter-Menger</i> | <i>Viola</i> |
| <i>Stefan Menger</i> | <i>Cello</i> |
| <i>Kathryn Riggs</i> | <i>Harp</i> |

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|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Linda Gyath</i> | <i>Piano/Organ</i> |
| <i>Pamela Johnson</i> | <i>Music Director</i> |