

# Morning Worship

## Fourth Sunday of Advent



December 20, 2020 (Online)

Ringing of the Bell

Our Life Together

The Solemn Declaration

Prelude Music

Read      Psalm 89:1-4

<sup>1-4</sup> Your love, GOD, is my song, and I'll sing it!

I'm forever telling everyone how faithful you are.

I'll never quit telling the story of your love—

how you built the cosmos

and guaranteed everything in it.

Your love has always been our lives' foundation,

your fidelity has been the roof over our world.

You once said, "I joined forces with my chosen leader,

I pledged my word to my servant, David, saying,

'Everyone descending from you is guaranteed life;

I'll make your rule as solid and lasting as rock.'"

Light the first, second, third and fourth candles:

The whole meaning of Christmas can be explained in one little four-letter word...LOVE. The gift of pure love that was sent to us that first Christmas. Love descended from heaven to be born of a virgin. Love lay in the scratchy hay of a manger in a meager barn in Bethlehem. All of God's love, was robed in the delicate skin of a baby and wrapped in swaddling clothes. This final week of Advent helps us to reflect on the magnitude of love that was made manifest in Jesus.

**People:** God be with us in this Light of Love.

Call to Worship

Leader In deep gratitude we come to worship God.  
**All We recognize God as the source of all goodness.**  
 Leader All good gifts come from the Spirit of God:  
**All love, peace, hope, joy, patience, kindness, gentleness  
 are all of God.**  
 Leader We come with grateful hearts, not for things, but for who  
 God is.  
**All We gather to show our gratitude in word and prayer.**

Prayer of Invocation

**Almighty God, as we stand in awe of your goodness and mercy today, we invite you to be present amongst us by the power of your Holy Spirit. Father, we declare that we love you. Thank you that you have made the way of love known through your son Jesus Christ. We pray that you would reveal this great love to us all today as we gather to worship. Lead us by your Spirit to praise you. May our hearts overflow with thanksgiving and our mouths proclaim your everlasting greatness. In the wonderful name of Jesus we pray, Amen.**

Call to Confession

God's promise to us is eternal. God wishes to bless us with hope, with joy, with life. But our desires lead us to reject God and these blessings. Let us confess how too often we choose the path of tears, rather than the joy which can lead us to God's heart.

The Unison Prayer of Confession

*Holy Lord, in this time of Advent, we confess we often are distracted by the season's busyness, by the stress of commitment, and even by putting our own traditions ahead of the true meaning of Christmas. We confess we also often prefer being sentimental to being sacrificial. Forgive us for all the times we have missed seeing You in*

*our midst, for all the times we have doubted Your presence, and for all the times we have failed to hold the holidays as holy days. Pour peace into our lives and let us be bearers of Your peace to others. Remind us that this is a season of waiting and preparation for the greatest Gift of all. In the holy Name of our Savior, Jesus, we pray. Amen.*

*(Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer)*

### Assurance of Pardon

Leader: God has given ear to our confession and God's face has shined upon us! In the name of Jesus Christ, you and I are forgiven: forgiven of our sins, saved by our faithful savior, whose steadfast love is gifted to the world!

**People: Thanks be to God. Amen**

### Scripture

#### *Romans 16:25-27*

<sup>25-26</sup> All of our praise rises to the One who is strong enough to make *you* strong, exactly as preached in Jesus Christ, precisely as revealed in the mystery kept secret for so long but now an open book through the prophetic Scriptures. All the nations of the world can now know the truth and be brought into obedient belief, carrying out the orders of God, who got all this started, down to the very last letter.

#### *Luke 1:56-55*

<sup>46</sup> And Mary<sup>[a]</sup> 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.”

Morning Message

Jan Garinger

Morning Prayer

Symbolic Offering

There are many signs we claim for our faith but ultimately it is our acts of love that show how we honor our loving God. God asks us to give our whole selves to Him. He wants us to give our time, our talents and our money so that we can continue to do His work in our church, our community and our world.

Offertory Music

Prayer of Dedication

Holy God, cheerfully and lovingly, we lift up these offerings to you. You have poured out your generosity upon us without restraint. Thank you that we are able to make a difference in our church, our community, and in the world by the offering of our time, talent, and treasures. We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Benediction

Leader: In all our traveling  
**All: May your footsteps guide us**  
 Leader: In our journeying to work and returning  
**All: May your footsteps guide us**  
 Leader: Within our homes and families  
**All: May your footsteps guide us**  
 Leader: In our leisure time together  
**All: May your footsteps guide us**  
 Leader: In difficult situations and conflict  
**All: May your footsteps guide us**  
 Leader: As we stumble on the way  
**All: May your footsteps guide us**  
 Leader: In the travelling of our faith  
**All: May your footsteps guide us**  
 Leader: As we place our trust in you  
**All: May your footsteps guide us. In all our travelling, Lord, may it be your footsteps in which we place our feet.**

\*Three-fold Amen

#812 (NCH)

\*Postlude

