



# Emmanuel United Church of Christ

*A Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

We Welcome You on this

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Service of the Word – December 19, 2021

9:30 AM

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The Gathering

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## Ringling of the Church Tower Bell

Our Life Together

The Solemn Declaration

Prelude

Call to Worship

Sung Response

Love waits for us at Advent  
Love waits for us to care.  
Love waits for our compassion  
freely offered, freely shared.  
In this time of preparation  
for the work of co-creation,  
for the birthing of a world  
where faith shapes all we do.  
Love is born in us anew!

“Insert

## Lighting of the Candle of Love

Sung Response

Love waits for us at Advent  
Love waits for us to care.  
Love waits for our compassion  
freely offered, freely shared.  
In this time of preparation  
for the work of co-creation,  
for the birthing of a world  
where faith shapes all we do.  
Love is born in us anew

## \*The Peace

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you!

**All: And also with you!**

**(As we rise in body or spirit for our opening hymn, we invite you to pass a “wave” of peace to the people around you!)**

## \*Opening Hymn

“My Soul Gives Glory to My God”

#119 (NCH)

## Call to Confession

### Unison Prayer of Confession

O God, restore us. Show us your true face and save us. We make enemies of the weak and poor and leave them to fend for themselves. You were poor. Show us your true face and save us. As a country we have not kept up. We are rightly mocked for our outlandish disparities. You knew how it was to be treated less than. Show us your true face and save us. We are caught in a cycle, not understanding mercy. Even our prayers are vengeful. You taught us to pray. Show us your true face and save us.

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

## Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Here is our hope and challenge: Christ is among us. Christ is incarcerated. Christ is hospitalized. Christ is malnourished and inadequately clothed. Christ cannot afford medicine.

**All: God help us to have courage to see those who need us and show them mercy and love as you show us mercy and love. Amen**

## \*Choral Response

“Gloria Patri”

#759 (NCH)

**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. Amen.**

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Listening for the Word

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## A Time with the Children

### Hymn of Preparation

“Spirit of the Living God”

#283(NCH)

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me; Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

### First Reading

Micah 5:2-5

### Second Reading

Luke 1:46-55

### Sermon

“It’s a Wonderful Life”

Pastor Jan

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Responding to the Word

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**Prayers of the People      “Make of My Heart a Stable”**

(The refrain is played through once, then the people sing. Please join in the response when indicated by the pastor praying.)

**Choral Response**

**#Insert**

**Make of my (heart/life/church) a stable,  
A house for the holy,  
A warm and sturdy place  
For love to live and grow.**

**The Prayer of Jesus (debts and debtors)**

**Call to Offering**

**Offertory**

**\*Offertory Response**

**“Take My Gifts”**

**#562(NCH)**

**Take whatever I can offer, gifts that I have yet to find, Skills that I am slow to sharpen, talents of the hand and mind, things made beautiful for others in the place where I must be: take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me.**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Emmanuel: God with us... God, take these gifts and with us create a new world: Where we allow the “them” to become the “us.” The “those” to become the “us!” The “really?” to become the “really us!” We are one body and always must be. Amen.**

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Bearing the Word into the World

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**\*Hymn of Mission**

**“O Come, All Ye Faithful”  
(Additional verse)**

**#135 (NCH)**

**“Child, for us sinners  
poor and in the manger,  
Fain we embrace thee, with awe and love:  
Who would not love thee  
loving us so dearly?  
Come, let us adore him...”**

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

\*Indicates that all who are able. Please stand. **Bold** print indicates unison reading.

**Notice Someone Missing?** *If so, give them a call and let them know they are missed.*