

Worship Outline

December 23, 2018

Advent 4C 10:00 a.m.

We Gather

Welcome

Prelude

He Comes to Us

Martin

Advent Candle Lighting

Love's Pure Light

Congregation and Chancel Choir

Hope for God's Love

Responsive Litany

During Advent we see God's love for us embodied in our Savior's birth.

Christ is our light and the source of everlasting love.

Advent calls us to love others with patience and kindness.

Christ is our light and the source of everlasting love.

Advent calls us to be slow to anger and quick to forgive.

Christ is our light and the source of everlasting love.

Advent reminds us that Christ commanded us to love as he loved.

Christ is our light and the source of everlasting love.

Candle Lighting

This morning we light four candles: the candles of hope, peace, joy, and today's candle - love. This candle reminds us that God so loved the world that he sent his only son, so that whoever believes in him should not perish but have life everlasting. Today we celebrate God's gift of love and remember that we have been commanded to love others as God loves us.

"Gesù Bambino"
Music: Pietro Yon

Words and Arranged by
JOEL RANEY



O come, O come, Em - man - u -
el, and end this gloom of night. Bring
hope to the world, bring peace to the
earth, and fill us with love's pure light.

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+Call to Worship

Not in the mighty places of power,
but in little Bethlehem,
in a room out back:

The Messiah is coming.

Not born in nobility and wealth,
but of Mary and Joseph,
who pondered and planed wood:

The Messiah is coming.

Not announced by prophets, priests, and kings,

but by two women,
who were the first to know:

The Messiah is coming.

Nothing will be impossible for God,
but when and where we least expect it,
look among the straw and the stars:

The Messiah is coming.

+Prayer of the Day

God of New Beginnings,
for many of us, the next few days will bring an ending:
the ending of the wrapping of presents,
the ending of Christmas parties,
the ending of shopping season,
the ending of the craziness of the month of December.
But, today, we are reminding that Christmas does not represent an ending;
but rather, the beginning:
the beginning of hope,
the beginning of peace,
the beginning of joy,
and the beginning of love.
Help us remember this day that you are the God of new things. Amen.

+Hymn 88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Unison Prayer of Confession

In the world, and in this season, there are many claims on our lives. We take this time to remember that in our baptism, Christ claimed us as his own. We acknowledge before God and one another that we have not followed Jesus Christ with all our heart and mind and strength. Trusting in God's grace, let us pray.

**God our Savior, we ask for your mercy.
Though we have heard Mary's song,
we still seek security in pride and power and possessions.
Though we know your story,
we resist the costs of following you.
We pass by those considered lowly in this world.
We turn away from hungry people who still wait to be filled.**

**Forgive us, we pray.
Help us to work for the justice you intend.
Make us messengers of the peace you bring.
As we wait for you, turn our apathy into acts of love and service.
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. Amen.**

Assurance

Friends, God is for us and not against us. For that very reason, God sent the Son into the world— not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

The Peace of Christ (responsive)

Friends, our God desires us to live lives of peace
and, because we have been forgiven,
we can now live such lives with the help of God.

Alleluia! Amen.

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

All who come to this sanctuary are welcome companions on this day.
Please turn to those nearest you and greet them with words of peace.

+Gathering Song 113 (refrain)

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Sharing the Story

Opening the Word with Young Disciples

Anthem

Sing Noel

Pote

Chancel Choir

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

46 And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, 48 for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; 49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. 50 His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. 51 He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. 52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; 53 he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. 54 He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, 55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Liz Rolf Kanerva

+Hymn 98

To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary

Prayers of the People

Let us pray to God, saying:

God of Love, **draw near to us.**

God of Creation,

we give thanks to you for your continued act of creation,

for your constant refusal to give up on the world you are creating.

We give thanks for the never-ending act of creation

that is the birth of your only child.

Jesus is our breath, our meaning, our hope in a broken world.

Thank you for not being a God-Way-Up-There

but a God-Right-Here in our arms.

God of Love, **draw near to us.**

God of Our Deepest Longings,
we come to you, in this Advent season, with our hopes:
our hopes for warfare to cease,
our hopes for hunger and poverty to be a thing of the past,
our hopes for love to win and for kindness to reign,
our hopes for a world where the dignity of all humans is cherished,
our hopes for our nation to be a place where those in power
put the needs of marginalized people first, and not last.
Holy God, give us the courage to bring these hopes to fruition.
God of Love, **draw near to us.**

God of Community,
we pray this day for those we love:
for our family,
for our friends,
for our coworkers,
for the strangers we meet as we go about our week.
Remind us that we are parts of a global community
and that those we encounter have their own struggles,
struggles that we often cannot imagine.
Give us gentle hearts and open arms
to dispense the grace that you have so graciously showered upon us.
God of Love, **draw near to us.**

God of Advent,
how much we long for the arrival of your precious Child.
We pray for the blessings of that Child to be among those we love.
We lift up to you in silence (or out loud) those who we love this day...
God of Love, **draw near to us.**

Holy and Merciful God,
hear us as we lift these prayers to you,
as we pray the prayer your Child taught us to pray, saying: **our Father...**

Lord's Prayer

Choral Prayer Response

Hear My Prayer

Offering

Invitation

God does not desire us to bring burnt offerings and sin offerings, but instead asks that we do God's will. So we bring to God now the offerings of our lives and our labors, with the prayer that God's will may be done through them.

Offertory

Canticle of the Turning

Haneson

Sextet

Offertory Sextet

Lilly Anderson

Katie Niesen-Cook

Maddie Kanerva

Peggy Mayfield

Deb Rose

Sue Van Patten

*Doxology 84 (verse 4)

Creator of the Stars of Night

*To God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Spirit, Three in One,
praise, honor, might, and glory be
from age to age eternally. Amen.*

+Prayer of Dedication

You deliver us, O God, from exile, separation, and despair into communion with each other, with you, and with your good news. We thank you for all that draws us close together, astounding us with lives transformed by gratitude. Accept our gifts as signs of our gratitude for what you give us every day and as honor to your presence in our world; for the sake of those who stand in need and Jesus Christ, who saves us. Amen.

Sending

+Hymn 104

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

+Blessing and Charge

+Congregational Response 127 (refrain)

*We'll walk in the light, beautiful light.
Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.
O, shine all around us by day and by night.
Jesus, the light of the world.*

Postlude

Sing Praise to God
Mendelson

Liturgy resources used in this service: Feasting on the Word: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1