



# Pine Street Church

*Embrace Everyone. Inspire Life. Create More.*

## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

*Sunday Morning Worship: At Home Edition, week 39*

**December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

"...Love arrives and in its train come ecstasies  
old memories of pleasure ancient histories of pain.  
Yet if we are bold, love strikes away the chains of fear from our souls.  
We are weaned from our timidity  
In the flush of love's light we dare be brave  
And suddenly we see that love costs all we are and will ever be.  
Yet it is only love which sets us free."

--Maya Angelou (1928-2014),  
American poet, memoirist, civil rights activist

## Prelude & Song – *When God Is A Child*

*Hope is a star that shines in the night,  
leading us on till the morning is bright.  
When God is a child  
there's joy in our song.  
The last shall be first  
and the weak shall be strong,  
and none shall be afraid.*

*Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,  
giving a promise of safety and worth.  
When God is a child  
there's joy in our song.  
The last shall be first  
and the weak shall be strong,  
and none shall be afraid.*

*Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,  
telling the world that the Savior is born.  
When God is a child  
there's joy in our song.  
The last shall be first  
and the weak shall be strong,  
and none shall be afraid.*

*Love is a flame that burns in our heart.  
Jesus has come and will never depart.  
When God is a child  
there's joy in our song.  
The last shall be first  
and the weak shall be strong,  
and none shall be afraid*

## Welcome & Greeting – Rev. Andrew Daugherty

## Advent Prayer of Invocation – The Connells

### Taizé – *Wait for the Lord*

*Wait for the Lord  
Whose day is near  
Wait for the Lord.  
Keep watch, take heart*

## Lighting of the Advent Candle – The Connells

## Maya Angelou's Freedom Poetry of Advent – "Love's Exquisite Freedom"

## The Gospel Lesson – *Luke 1: 26-41*

## Pastoral Meditation- Maya Angelou & the Freedom Poetry of Advent, Part IV Rev. Andrew Daugherty

## Musical Meditation – *The Christmas Song as performed by Dave Brubeck* Ryan T. Connell, piano

## Benediction – Rev. Andrew Daugherty

## Postlude & Song – Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming

*Lo! how a rose e'er blooming  
from tender stem hath sprung,  
of Jesse's lineage coming,  
as saints of old have sung.  
It came a floweret bright,  
amid the cold of winter,  
when half spent was the night.*

*Isaiah 'twas foretold it,  
the Rose I have in mind;  
with Mary we behold it,  
the Virgin Mother kind.*

*To show God's love aright,  
she bore for us a Savior,  
when half spent was the night.*

*This Flower,  
whose fragrance tender  
with sweetness fills the air,  
dispels with glorious splendor  
the darkness everywhere.  
True man, yet very God,  
from sin and death he saves us  
and lightens every load.*

**REFLECT**

Alongside the candles of peace and peace, this week, we light a candle of joy in the midst of a world full of sorrow. Some say "Joy is the heart of God," since even the greatest faith, or hope, or peace, or love – if it lacks a sense of joy, it is not yet fully alive. As Angelou put it: "Joy is a freedom," a force that itself helps a person find liberation. Can we sing a song of joy, a song of freedom; even in the midst of the shadows of sorrow?

**PRAY**

God of delight, God of celebration, God of good news of great joy for all people – we pray for your world so full of sorrow. Let us weep with those who weep, and rejoice with those who rejoice. Most of all, let us sing with Mary of how you delight in lifting up the lowly, scattering the proud, and filling the hungry with good things. Come, Jesus, come. Amen.

**PRACTICES**

- Light three candles. Say a prayer. Breathe in joy.
- Each day this week, write down ten things for which you are grateful, ten things – large or small – that give you joy. Keep a running list (no repeats), and read it each morning. Notice the joy that gratitude and appreciation can bring to your life and to those around you. A strength of mine I'm thankful for is... Something wonderful I've have that money can't buy is... Something funny I'm grateful for is... Something in my life that I'm thankful for is... Something awful for me... A current challenge I'm grateful for is...
- Conversation starters: Angelou says, "Joy is a freedom." What does joy free you to do or to be? What's the difference between joy and happiness?

**WEEK FOUR LOVE**

**LIGHT**  
Four Candles

**SING**  
"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"  
"Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow"

**Worship Leaders:**

Rev. Andrew Daugherty, *senior pastor*

Ryan, and Lyra Connell, *worship leaders*

Ryan Connell, *music director, piano*

David L'Hommedieu, *director of worship and arts, video producer*