Westminster Presbyterian Church

LITURGY FOR DECEMBER 20, 2020
4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Gathering Words **Jim and Francis Bonk**

I knew joy, but when I heard the laugh of my child,
Suddenly, joy was overflowing.
I knew love, but when you held my hand,
Suddenly, love was overflowing.
I knew God, but when you showed me grace, when you forgave me,
when you loved me,
when you raised me,
Suddenly, God was overflowing.
So, let us worship Holy God together
As a reminder that God is here and we are never alone.
This is community.
This is the body of Christ.
Welcome home.

Candle Lighting Liturgy The Candle of Love **Jim and Francis Bonk**

I dream of music that makes my heart swell.
I dream of trees that take my breath away.
I dream of sunrises that wrap me in light.
I dream of family dinners that feel like home.
I dream of church services that give me hope.
I dream of love as the default.
So today, as we draw near to Christmas day, we light the candle of love.

Light candle.

May this light burn bright as a reminder that God is here, and God is love.
We are not alone. Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.

Opening Hymn Those Who Dream The Many

Prayer of Illumination **Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

Scripture Reading Luke 1:26-45 **Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

[26]In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, [27]to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. [28]And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." [29]But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. [30]The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. [31]And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him

Jesus. [32]He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. [33] He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." [34]Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" [35]The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. [36]And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. [37]For nothing will be impossible with God." [38]Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

[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."

Sermon Those Who Dream: Are Not Alone **Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

Hymn No. 137 He Came Down HE CAME DOWN

Prayer of the People **Jim and Francis Bonk**

…We pray in the name of the One who is to come, Jesus the Christ, who taught us to pray together:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

Closing Hymn No. 88 O Come, O Come Emanuel VENI EMMANUEL

Benediction **Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

Note: The Gathering Words and the Candle Lighting Liturgy were adapted from *The Sanctified Art*.