

PRELUDE: What Child Is This?

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLES:

ADVENT WEEK IV (DECEMBER 20)—THE CANDLE OF LOVE

All four candles are lit.

Lay Leader: Christ, be our light. As we light this candle of love for all God's people, we remember your commandments. You call us to love God and love our neighbors. Come to us in this time of Advent. May the light of your love be born anew in us.

People: **God, fill us with love. Love is patient, love is kind. Love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way. Love rejoices in the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, endures all things. God, bless us with love.**

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Lay Leader: In returning and rest we shall be freed;

People: **In quietness and in trust we shall find our strength.**

SONG The Angel Gabriel

OPENING COLLECT

Lay Leader: Let us pray together.

Holy One, we gather as friends this Advent season, grateful for the winter's lessons of gentleness and rest. This morning we step aside from the uncertainty, discord and noise of life and the many distractions clamoring for our attention. Instead we pause, breathe deeply and attend to your presence in the center of our hearts. Amen.

SONG: Soon and Very Soon

GOSPEL

Reader: The Holy Gospel of Jesus according to Luke.
(Luke 1: 26 – 38, the Annunciation)

People: **Our hearts and minds are open.**

<The Gospel>

Reader: The Gospel of Jesus.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON / PAGEANT

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Youth Leader: Let us pray.

Just as the seasons turn into each other, and as night turns into day, we know that life with You has seasons and cycles, with wisdom residing in each. May we be honest about the darkness, more perceptive of the light.

People (*Sung*) **Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.** (2x)

Youth Leader: We offer prayers for all who take action to bring about change for:

- Hunger to cease
- Divisions to crumble
- Wars to stop
- Justice to prevail
- Racism to end
- Housing to be available
- Isolation to be over

People (*Sung*) **Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.** (2x)

Youth Leader: We offer prayers for all who wait for:

- Test results and vaccines to be released
- Jobs to be found
- Death to come
- Grief to soften
- Restrictions to end

People (*Sung*) **Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.** (2x)

Youth Leader: We offer prayers for all who wait to:

- Be re-united with loved ones
- Invite people into their homes
- Play sports and games with friends
- Return to in-person learning and work
- Give and receive hugs

People (*Sung*) **Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.** (2x)

Youth Leader: We offer prayers for all who wait for:

- Birth
- Love
- Strength
- Forgiveness
- Healing
- Answers
- Redemption
- Resurrection

People (*Sung*) **Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. (2x)**

Youth Leader: For other prayers and thanksgivings:

Congregation may add their own, silently or aloud.

Youth Leader: This Advent, as the sun shines so thin and sets so early, teach us to be still and patient, as we wait for the birth of Christ, knowing darkness holds its own lunar wisdom.

People (*Sung*) **Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. (2x)**

BLESSINGS *You're invited to share concerns and thanksgivings.*

PRAYER

Lay Leader : Let us pray.

People: **Thank you for binding us together for sharing of your love. In this Advent season of darkness and rest, we abide in stillness. We abide in patience. We abide in your presence, day into night, season into season. Always. Amen.**

SONG Brazilian Carol

FINAL BLESSING

People: **Life is short, and we haven't much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us along the way. So, be quick to love, make haste to be kind—and the blessing of God goes with us.**

DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE