

Sunday December 21, 2025 10:00 A.M.

Fourth Sunday of Advent
A Service of Love

We're so pleased that you've come to worship with us this morning. While this bulletin is a guide to the service, if you are unfamiliar with the ritual customs of the Anglican Church, simply relax with the liturgy and let the rest of the congregation carry you in worship. After the service please join us downstairs for coffee, tea, and juice.

(Congregational participation in **BOLD**)

Greeting/Land Acknowledgement

HYMN # 89 O Come, O Come Emmanuel
Vs 1,4,6&7 (Blue Book)

We gather together in this place:
prophets and dreamers, singers and poets,
we who dare to imagine a world renewed;
we who dare to dream God's dream.
We speak out with Zechariah.
God's name be blessed forever!
For God has remembered us in mercy,
and remained faithful to us in love.
Because of God's tender compassion,
the dawn from on high will rise over us.
Come and worship, all you who dream and wait.
We have come to wonder and praise.

Collect
God of liberation,
your love reaches beyond all boundaries of prejudice and fear.
Your tenderness is offered not only to the powerful or deserving,
but to all people, according to your infinite compassion.
Teach us to love widely and boldly, honoring the dignity of all
and trusting your promise that the way of love is the way of life, **Amen**.

Advent Candle Lighting
The birth of Jesus has been told and retold a thousand times and in a thousand ways.
Its impact cannot be contained in any one perspective. But who is telling the story changes how we hear it, how we imagine it, how we experience it.
We light the candle of hope because hope creates a path for a new, unknown story to unfold.
Light the first candle.

We light the candle of peace because peace requires us to pay attention to the needs of those around us.
Light the second candle.

And we light the candle of joy because joy sustains us in the midst of uncertainty.
Light the third (pink) candle.

Close your eyes for a moment … Open your eyes.
… … mercy, justice, and peace.
Today, we also light the candle of love because love makes the impossible possible.
Light the fourth candle.

First Reading: Isaiah 7: 10-16
Reader: Oliver Jull
Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church
Thanks be to God

Second Reading: Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19
Reader: Oliver Jull
Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.
Restore us, O God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
O Sovereign GOD of hosts, how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?
You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink**.**
You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
Restore us, O God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
Restore us, O Sovereign GOD of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

Thanks be to God
PSALM HYMN: View the Present Through the Promise *(See Insert)*

The Gospel Reading: (*standing*)
God be with you
And also with you
The Good News of Jesus Christ according to Luke
The Gospel Reading: Luke 1:57-80
Reader: Deacon Lynne Smith
The Gospel of Christ
People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Zachariah Narrative:

Homily- *The Rev. Dr. Jane Rowland*

Prayers of the People: *Carol Gardiner*
Response 1: Hear our prayers, Lord.
May your gentle love make us brave and kind.

Response 2: Hear our prayers, Lord.
May your fierce love make us bold dreamers.

Response 3: Hear our prayers, Lord.
May your boundless love make all things whole.

Confession
Through the holy prophets of old, God gives us knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of our sins. Let us approach the God who loves us, naming our need for redemption.
God of love,
you teach us songs of praise and call us to proclaim justice.
We confess the ways that we instead
use our words and voices in ways that cause harm.
We share half-truths, spread gossip, and speak unkindly.
We fail to speak up for the vulnerable.
We pay lip service to our faith
instead of taking risks in the name of love.
Help us to love you and our neighbors
with courage and conviction,
in word and in deed.
We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

The Peace

OFFERTORY HYMN # 132 Of Eternal Love Begotten
Vs. 1,3,4,5 & 6 (*Blue Book)*

Prayer over the Gifts

Invitation to the Table

Eucharistic Prayer

Celebrant: God be with you.
People: And also with you
Celebrant: Lift up your fears, your hopes, your dreams.
People: We lift them up to God.
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to our generous, imaginative God.
People: It is right to offer thanks and praise

Celebrant: It is a joyous occasion, ….
… join their unending hymn.

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord; God of pow'r and might;
Heav'n and earth of your glory are full.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest x2

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord
Blessed is he who comes in the names of the Lord.

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord; God of pow'r and might;
Heav'n and earth of your glory are full.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest

Celebrant: Holy are you, …
…mystery of our faith.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Celebrant: Send your Spriit upon us, …
…now and forever.

Amen, Amen, Amen.

Lord's Prayer
Our Creator, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kin(g)dom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kin(g)dom,
and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

The gifts of God for the people of God
Thanks be to God

Chant # 47 Born in Human Likeness *(Red Book)*

THE COMMUNION

Communion Music:
I Wonder as I Wander *arranged by Kyle Pederson*
By Corinne MacLean and Donna Ruparell

The Prayer after Communion

Affirmation of Love

Let us affirm God's gift of bold and liberating love.

We believe in the power of love,
a love that not only comforts but liberates.
A love constructed with care, compassion, and courage,
providing shelter and safety for all God's children.
Love does not demand or wait for perfection,
but scoops us up in arms of unconditional care,
where we are, as we are.
We believe, with gratitude, in a legacy of love,
a long thread of memory recalling who we are and whose we are,
stitching us into its tapestry of belonging.
We believe love is not earned.
We believe love holds no secrets. Love does not shame.
Love speaks up. Love makes space.
Because God's love doesn't give up on us,
we will not give up on ourselves or each other.
We will remember and bless. We will fix what is broken.
We will look for the dawn of God's love in and around us.

Announcements

HYMN # 114 Lo, He Come with Clouds Descending
(Blue Book)

The Dismissal

To embody love is more than sentiment.
It is choosing, every day, to see the worth and good in ourselves,
others, and this world.
So go forth from this place modeling merciful love,
and remember God is love, a love we see modeled in Jesus.
May blessings flow from your mouth
as you seek to be love in this world.

Go out into the world, embracing the will to dream,
and may the love God has for you warm your soul for the days ahead!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!