Order of Worship

**December 24, 2023 @9AM**

**4th Sunday of Advent: LOVE**

*To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest; to all who are sad and long for comfort;*

*to all who struggle and desire victory; to all who sin and need a Savior; to all who are strangers and want friendship; to all who hunger and thirst for something real and lasting; and to all who come here, this church opens wide her doors and offers welcome to you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

**Prelude** (*Please silence cell phones at this time*)

**Welcoming Songs:  *#270 “Joy to the World”***

**Welcome and Greeting**\*

**Advent Reading and Lighting of the Advent LOVE Candle:**

*Jessica Hall and Jeanie Smith*

**Choir: “Born tonight in Bethlehem”**

**Call to Worship: (***Adapted from Psalm 36:5-7) Deacon David Smukala, Liturgist*

Liturgist: Your love, Lord, reaches to the heavens,

**People: Your faithfulness to the skies.**

Liturgist: Your righteousness is like the highest mountains,

**People:** Your justice like the great deep.

Liturgist: You, Lord, preserve both people and animals.

**People: How priceless is your unfailing love, O God!**

Liturgist: People take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

**People: We celebrate your incredible love today.**

**Opening Hymn: *#249 “O Come, All Ye Faithful” (verses 1,2,3)***

**Advent Prayer:** *Pastor Dustin*

Lord, thank You for loving us so much that [You gave Your Son for us](https://www.bible.com/bible/1588/JHN3.16), [even before we loved You](https://www.bible.com/bible/116/ROM.5.8). Thank You for [inviting us into Your family](https://www.bible.com/bible/116/EPH.1.5). For [all of us who are brothers and sisters in faith](https://www.bible.com/bible/111/1JN.3.1), please [help us to love one another in perfect harmony](https://www.bible.com/bible/116/COL.3.12-14). Father, please help us to see every person the same way that You see them. Help us to love others as you do — [even when they don’t love us back](https://www.bible.com/bible/97/LUK.6.35). Please show us how to [walk continually in Your love](https://www.bible.com/bible/1588/EPH.5.1-2), that [perfect love which casts out fear](https://www.bible.com/bible/59/1JN.4.18). [We love you, Lord](https://www.bible.com/bible/116/MAT.22.37-38).

*Lord, hear our prayers.*

**Private Confession and Musical Interlude**

**Words of Assurance and Pardon of the Gospel** *Jeanie Smith, Liturgist*

Liturgist:

*In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’(Jeremiah 33.15-16)*

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

**Congregational Singing: *#250 “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (verses 1)***

***#259 “It Came Upon A Midnight Clear” (verse 1 only)***

**Teaching Moment:**

“All You Need is Love”

*Pastor Dustin*

**Pastoral Prayer and Lord’s Prayer**

***Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.***

**Offering and Offertory**

*(You are welcome to place your offering at the plates at this time, or one of the plates as you leave Worship, which are located near the exits. You may also give online. God bless you!)*

**Doxology**

**Offertory Prayer to Thank God and Bless the Givers**

**Worship Through Music: “God Rest Ye Merry/We Three Kings”**

**Prayer for the World and those in Need.**

**\*\*\*Announcements**

*-Generosity/Giving*

*-Fellowship Time*

*-Opportunities to Serve this church: Sound booth, projector and screen, children ministry, Avenue 941*

**Benediction**