

December 18, 2022

Order of Worship

Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:00am

An asterisk () indicates times when you are invited to stand. Selections in BOLD are responses spoken by the congregation.*

Welcome and Announcements

Deacon

Prelude

Gloria (Angels We Have Heard on High)
arr. by Frances L. Callahan

Bell Choir

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Love Candle

Betty Hart & Corinne Dickerson

Leader: Love is patient, and love is kind:

People: Lord, grant us patient spirits and kind hearts.

Leader: Love is not boastful, arrogant, or resentful:

People: Lord, help us to be humble and compassionate.

Leader: Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things:

People: Lord, kindle our faith, guard us against despair, and give us strength and perseverance.

Leader: Everything else may cease, but love never ends:

All: Faith, hope, and love abide — and the greatest of these is love. Amen.

*Gathering Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Insert

Message for All

Sarah Pradhan

Joy and Concern cards will be collected by the Deacons

Children will proceed to Sunday School.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel

Scripture

Deacon

As we hear the words of scripture

Let us listen in the words for the Word of God.

Matthew 1: 18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,

and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The grass withers and the flower fades
But the Word of God shall stand forever

Choir Anthem *Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones* Choir
(An Anthem on the hymn tune "Lasst Uns Erfreuen") Insert

Sermon Message Rev. Chris Mereschuk

Special Music *Pachelbel Canon* Bell Choir
Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706), arr. by Von Wolzogen

Prayers of the People for the World Rev. Chris Mereschuk

Lord in your mercy
All: hear our prayers.

The Lord's Prayer Rev. Chris Mereschuk

**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, now and forever. Amen.**

***Closing Hymn** *People Look East* # 142

***Benediction** Rev. Chris Mereschuk

Leader: My Dear Sisters, Brothers, and Siblings — As we near the end of our Advent journey, let us bless and commission each other with these words:

People: May the Hope of Christ inspire you to persevere. May the Peace of Christ bring you wisdom and wholeness. May the Joy of Christ revive and renew your Spirit. And may the Love of Christ compel you to love God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength, and your neighbor as yourself.

Leader: Our time of worship has ended, let our service begin.

All: Amen.

***Parting Song** *God Be With You 'Till We Meet Again (modified)*

**God be with You till we meet again.
By God's counsels guide, uphold you.
God will place arms all around you.
God be with you till we meet again.**

Postlude *Vom Himmel Hoch (From Heaven Above)* Norman McFarlane
Arr. by Wilbur Held (1914-2015) (Based on hymn #146 in Chalice Hymnal)

Rev. Chris Mereschuk (He/Him) will be serving as Bridge Pastor through Christmas Eve, primarily providing worship leadership. Chris specializes in transitional ministry and vitality discernment. He has served churches in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Orleans, and Virginia. More information can be found at revcjm.com.