

Fourth Sunday
OF
ADVENT



DECEMBER 19, 2021

10:30 AM

WE GATHER AS THE BODY OF CHRIST

GREETING

LEADER: The coming of the Lord is near.

PEOPLE: We wait for the fulfillment of God's promise.

SUNG RESPONSE Wait for the Lord (Insert) Sing 2 times

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH Tom, Karen and Kevin Robinson

Voice A: I used to think love was a feeling.

Voice B: That was before I knew that love is a fire—unquenchable and bright.

Voice C: That was before I knew that love is a river—forging paths where none have gone before.

ALL: That was before I knew that love is a song—etching its melody into my memory.

Voice A: I used to think that I had to find love for it to find me.

Voice B: But that was before I knew that love breathes us into being.

ALL: That was before I knew that love had already found me, never letting me go.

Voice C: Friends, today we light the candle of love as a reminder that it is from love that we are made,

Voice A: it is in love that we are raised,

ALL: and it is for love that we are sent.

Light candle of love

Voice A: You were made from love

Voice B: to be love,

Voice C: to give love.

ALL: Let us draw near to God because God, who is love, has and will always draw near to us.

CANDLE SONG (Insert)

UNISON PRAYER

All: Light of Christ, awaken us this hour to the glory of your presence in our midst. Shine among us in such a way that the darkness without and within may be pushed back, such that we might truly see what is really real. As we long for the fulfillment of your realm, enable us to behold the signs of the kingdom in the world, in our neighbors, and in ourselves. Empower us to move from darkness to light, from sin to new life. May your light within us shine through into worship this day, and in all our days. This we pray in the name of the Word made flesh, the light which is the light of all people. Jesus Christ. Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

SPECIAL MUSIC

“One Small Child”

David Meece

arr John Leavitt

WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S STILL SPEAKING VOICE

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 9: 2-3a, 6-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

John 1: 1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me."') From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

One: God is still speaking

ALL: Thanks be to God

MESSAGE

The Word Became Flesh

Reverend Patty Dodds

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

***HYMN**

O How Shall I Receive You

#102

O how shall I receive you, how meet you on your way,
Blessed hope of every people, my soul's delight and stay?
O Jesus, Jesus, give me now by your own pure light,
To know whate'er is pleasing and welcome in your sight.

Love caused your incarnation; love brought you unto me;
Your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.
O love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace
In love, all love excelling, our lost and fallen race.

You came, O Christ, with gladness, in mercy and goodwill,
To bring an end to sadness and bid our fears be still.
In patient expectation we live for that great day
When a renewed creation your glory shall display.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS AND THE 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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

THE OFFERING OF THE MINISTRY OF OUR CHURCH

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OUR LIVES

One: We have made our offerings in person, by mail and online. We have given of our gifts, our energy, and our time. Let us join in prayer as we dedicate all of these gifts to God.

ALL: Giving God, in this season of giving, we pause to remember that we ourselves are the gift you most desire. Unfold our hopes, open us to service, use us well. Magnify our giving as we rejoice in your gracious presence among us. Bless all who give and all the ministry for which our gifts are given that we might be a sign of your hope. In the name of the one who was born Emmanuel. Amen

WE GO INTO THE WORLD AS THE BODY OF CHRIST

*HYMN People Look East (Back cover of bulletin)

COMMISSION

One: The Word has become flesh and dwells among us.

All: The Light shines in the darkness and the darkness will not overcome it.

One: As we go into the world and our everyday lives, we will see places of darkness

All: Let us shine your light into the world through kindness, acceptance, and compassion.

One: We are called to be a witness to the true light which has come and continues to come among us.

All: We rejoice in Jesus who offers grace upon grace.

BENEDICTION

SUNG RESPONSE

Worship Resources: Peter Haynes, and posted on the Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren website.

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Pastor, Reverend Patty Dodds Dan Molkenthin, Director of Music
Maryanne Price, Lay Reader

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Plan to attend our **Christmas Eve service Friday December 24th at 7:00pm.** Celebrate with special music, carols, candle lighting and the joy of the Christmas story! Invite your friends and family. Communion will be celebrated.

Guild will meet on Tuesday January 4 at 3 pm. Kevin Robinson will be leading us in a Drum circle. EVERYONE is part of the Guild -- Join us!

Our next **Arts & Crafts Night will be January 13th from 6-9pm.** Bring your own craft or come to chat.

Bible study will be taking a break for Christmas. We will resume on **Monday January 3 at 7 pm by Zoom.** The link will be emailed each week.

Tree of Warmth: This year we are collecting adult size athletic socks for Anchor, a ministry to the unsheltered in downtown Lancaster. To learn more about this ministry or explore other ways you might support their work, go to: Anchorlanaster.org

As an outreach service we purchased 2 DVD players for Hershey Mill Home. We would like to collect new or used DVDs to give them. (no R-rated please) You can give them to Katie Crockett. Any questions call Katie 717-684-7925

Please consider helping with our worship. Ushers, Lay Readers, Sound/Video Volunteers are needed. Please sign up in the Narthex.

Please contact Pastor Patty if you have any concerns or needs, or if you just need to talk. Phone: 570-506-0677, email: Pastor@MountvilletrinityUCC.org

