

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

**The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen

**Prayer of Intercession and the Lord's Prayer**

David Diener

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.

**The Offering**

**Offertory**

Christmas Medley

arr. Richard Smallwood

**\*Doxology No. 606**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him, all creatures here below.  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**\*Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**WE GO FORTH TO SERVE**

**Joy to the World**

No. 134

**\*Hymn of Commissioning**

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

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**Special Thanks Today:**

**Lay Leader:** Dorothy Pettay

**Usher:** Jim Anderson



**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Love**

**We are a community of believers, sharing God's love, in worship and service, as disciples of Jesus Christ.**

**The marks of this life are:**

Pray daily;  
Worship weekly;  
Enjoy spiritual friendships;  
Read and study the Scriptures;  
Engage in service in and beyond the church;  
Share the Good News of the Gospel with others, and  
Practice generosity with one's time, talent, and money.

**December 21, 2025**

**Sunday Order of Worship**  
**11:00 am**

December 21, 2025

**Worship Service**

11:00 am

\* Those who are able, please stand. **Bold** is to be read in unison.

**Prayer of Preparation**

All-powerful God, increase our strength of will for doing good, that Christ may find an eager welcome at His coming and call us to His side in the kingdom of heaven, where He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Welcoming and Announcements**

Everyone is asked to sign the Friendship Folder in the pew rack. **Visitors:** Please completely fill out your name, mailing address, and e-mail address to enable us to extend our Christian hospitality. Please pass the folder to your neighbor, and then return it to the center aisle with the cover open so that you may learn the names of the other worshipers. **For sight impaired worshipers:** Large Print Hymnals are available from the ushers. **For hearing impaired worshipers:** We recommend downloading the Listen Everywhere app.

**Minute for Mission**

Stapley

**\*Greeting One Another in Love**

Joy Gift

Ginger

**PREPARATION FOR THE WORD**

**Prelude**

Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas

arr Hugh Martin

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

Leader: Watch and wait for Christ's coming! Light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God with prayer.

**People: We light this candle in hope.**

**We light this candle for peace.**

**We light this candle in joy!**

**We light this candle with love.**

Leader: Out of love for the people of God, the Lord speaks through the prophet Isaiah, as found in the seventh chapter, verses 10-14: The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a Son, and shall name Him Immanuel.'

Let us pray. God of Hope, Prince of Peace, Jubilee Judge, and Lord of Love, Your goodness is beyond our wildest imaginings. You give us more than we can think to ask, coming to us with impossible possibility in the union of flesh and spirit. Teach us to love this world and all people as You love us, in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness come.**

**Call to Worship (Unison)**

**Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.**

James 5:8

**\*Hymn of Praise**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

No. 133

**\*Prayer of Confession**

Lord Christ, we confess our willingness to be loved but also our reluctance to love. We confess our readiness to accept Your forgiving love but also our refusal to forgive. We confess our eagerness to grasp Your offer of redeeming love but also our resistance to follow You without question. In this Advent time, forgive us our failure to respond as we should. Come to us anew, and by Your grace, assist us to receive You with joy, as the shepherds; with gratitude, as Simeon; with obedience, as Mary; with love, as You have loved us. Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

**\*Assurance of God's Grace**

Leader: Comfort, comfort My people, says Your God. Your sins are pardoned. The penalty is paid.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

—based on Isaiah 40:1-2

**WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD**

Prayer of Illumination

**First Scripture Lesson**

**Luke 2:14**

Pew Bible page 725

Leader: The word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Second Scripture Lesson**

**John 13:34-35**

Pew Bible page 763

Leader: The word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem**

**Sermon**

**Joy / Love**

The Rev. Dr. Russ Weekley

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

**\*Hymn of the Day**

What Child Is This?

No. 145