

WORSHIP & PAGEANT

ADVENT 4: LOVE

December 21, 2025 ~ 10:30am

Mission Statement: As a community of faith, we welcome all who seek understanding. • As a community of hope, we offer friendship and comfort to those in need. • As a community of love, we provide caring support and shared fellowship to all

WE ARE A COMMUNITY CHURCH. OUR FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS AND MEMBERS COME FROM MANY PLACES AND MULTIPLE FAITH TRADITIONS. EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO FIND A SPIRITUAL SANCTUARY HERE.

— WELCOME —

SONG #160 **Go Tell It on the Mountain* Congregation

LIGHTING CANDLE of LOVE *Verran Family*

Family: Could we imagine the events in Jesus' birth story happening in our times? After all, they were a poor family forced to migrate to a strange city by their government. They could not find shelter when their vulnerable baby was due. Later their son was hunted by hostile authorities who wanted to kill him. They fled into exile and lived as strangers, dependent on others' tolerance and welcome, in a foreign land. When they came home again, their country was occupied by oppressive rulers and collaborators, and the danger continued. Above all, though, they exemplified love through all of those experiences.

People: *Inspired by this story, what would we change in our own place and time, to make a difference in the world?*

Family: The baby Jesus grew into a man who challenged injustice. He resisted oppression with compassion, healing, relationship-building, and love. Along the way, he chose the most messy, ordinary, surprising, and unlikely people as his companions and community.

People: *Whom do we choose as friends and neighbors in our time? Whom do we leave out? Whom should we include in our community?*

Family Two different gospel writers tell different versions of Jesus' birth. By tradition, we have woven them together as one story. Yet each gives us different perspectives.

People: *Who tells meaningful stories in our own times? To whom are we listening?*

Family What does this sacred story say to us?

People: *Could a single story change us?*

ALL: *Gathered in this place, we light the Advent candle representing Love. May Love be born anew into the world. May it find a place in our hearts. May it discover embodiment in our lives. May Love abide with us — not just on holidays and holy days — but every day of the year.*

— PRAYERS —

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power, and glory forever. *Amen.*

— PAGEANT —

*Participants include Klein and Verran families and other volunteers!
Plus the congregation.*

INTRODUCTION

Rev. Gail Doktor

— ANCESTORS —

Based on Matthew 1:1-17 & Luke 3:23-38-

SONG #149 *It Came Upon Midnight Clear* ^(v1-2) Congregation

— MARY'S ANGELIC ENCOUNTER —

Based on Luke 1:26-38

— JOSEPH'S ANGELIC ENCOUNTER —

Based on Matthew 1:18-25

SONG #135 *Angels We Have Heard on High* ^(v1&3) Congregation

— MARY'S SONG —

Based on Luke 1:39-56

SONG #124 *My Heart Sings Out* ^(v1-2) Congregation

— JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM —

Based on Matthew 2:1 & Luke 2:1-7

SONG #151 **O Little Town of Bethlehem* ^(v 1-2) Congregation

— JESUS' BIRTH —

Based on Luke 2:6-7

SONG #150 **Away in the Manger* ^(v 1-2) Congregation

READING #143 *Carol of the Beasts* Narrator &
(Jesus Our Brother Strong & Good) Congregation

— ANGELS & SHEPHERDS VISIT —

Based on Luke 2:8-20

SONG [BLUE BOOK] *Little Drummer Boy* Congregation

SONG #137 **Hark the Herald Angels Sing* Congregation

— OFFERING —

SANTA ARRIVES

SONG #134 **Joy to the World* Congregation

— CLOSING —

BENEDICTION *Rev. Gail Doktor*

**Please stand if you are able.*

Hospitality follows worship. All are welcome. Santa will remain briefly for photos.
