

## Today's Scripture

### A TIME OF PRAYER

Choral Call to Prayer      *Love Came Down at Christmas*    verse 1      No. 242  
Prayer/Lord's Prayer  
Choral Response      *Love Came Down at Christmas*    verse 2      No. 242

CHOIR ANTHEM      *Call the Baby Jesus*      Michael Barrett

SCRIPTURE      Isaiah 9:2, 6-7  
Luke 1:26-38

HYMN (*remain seated*)      *O Little Town of Bethlehem*      No. 230

SERMON      Rev. Mary Birgelaitis

ADVENT AGENDA:

"Welcome Love"

### OFFERING

Call to Stewardship and Mission  
Offertory      *Sweet Little Jesus Boy*      Robert MacGimsey  
Doxology/Prayer of Dedication      Hymnal, No. 95

*Praise God whose dawn transfigures night,  
whose Daystar shines for us on high,  
whose Spirit brings into our sight,  
the love to which our world draws nigh.*

\*CLOSING HYMN      *Joy to the World*      No. 246

### \*BENEDICTION

As children of God's promise,  
**we go to bring joy to the world.**  
Blessed by Christ's presence,  
**we go forth in peace.**

RESPONSE      *Love Came Down at Christmas*    verse 3      No. 242

***Love shall be our token, love be yours and love be mine.  
Love to God and neighbor, love for plea and gift and sign.***

POSTLUDE      *Today in Bethlehem*      Rick Parks

*Music Director: Julia Burns    Piano/Keyboard: Dennis Eiler    Organist: Brad Bettencourt*

### ISAIAH 9:2, 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.  
For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counsellor, 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 for evermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

### Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent  
by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth,  
to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was  
Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's  
name was Mary. And he came to her and said,  
'Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with  
you.' But she was much perplexed by his  
words and pondered what sort of greeting

his might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be  
afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with  
God. And now, you will conceive in your womb  
and bear a son, and you will name him  
Jesus. He will be great and will be called the  
Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will  
give to him the throne of his ancestor David.  
He will reign over the house of Jacob forever,  
and of his kingdom there will be no end.'  
Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be,  
since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her,  
'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the  
power of the Most High will overshadow you;  
therefore the child to be born will be holy; he  
will be called Son of God. And now, your  
relative Elizabeth in her old age has also  
conceived a son; and this is the sixth month  
for her who was said to be barren. For nothing  
will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said,  
'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be  
with me according to your word.' Then the  
angel departed from her

*Today's Liturgist: Patti Melsheimer*



### ALL CHURCH SUNDAY HOSPITALITY TIME

the last TWO Sundays in December  
Dec. 24 and Dec. 31.

**Bring your extra Christmas goodies**

**HOSPITALITY TIME**  
Today's Hosts:

**ALL CHURCH  
SUNDAY**

Hosts next Sunday,  
Dec. 31

**ALL CHURCH  
SUNDAY**



**THIS EVENING!**  
**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**  
*Sunday, December 24*  
*7:30 p.m.*  
*Lessons and Carols*  
*with Traditional*  
*Candle Lighting*

Thank you to Linda Wood who covered the office this past week while Frances is taking a vacation.

The Church office will be closed from Christmas Day, Monday, December 25, through New Years Day, Monday, January 1. The office will re-open on Tuesday, January 2, 2024.

Both the Contemporary Service at 8:30 AM and the Traditional Service at 10:30 AM on Sunday, December 31 will be held as usual.

***BRING THE ADVENT ANIMALS TO BABY JESUS***

For this year's Advent/Christmas offering we want to bring all the animals to the manger to adore baby Jesus. Please join in the fun and give generously.

Doves at \$10    Cats at \$25    Dogs at \$25    Donkeys at \$50

Sheep at \$100    Cows at \$250    Camels at \$500

But no Angels at \$1000. Won't someone be an Angel and donate an Angel.

Mark your contributions "ADVENT" or specify which animal you would like to sponsor.



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December 24, 2023

10:30 AM

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

*Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely, love divine.*  
*Love was born at Christmas, stars and angels gave the sign.*  
 ---Christina Rosetti

PRELUDE    *Carol of the Bells with I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*    Leotovich/Calkin

INTROIT    *On Christmas Night (Sussex Carol)*    Barbarar Baltzer

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

The day foretold is near as we gather 'round a manger-bed.  
**We watch with the shepherds and sing with the angels.**  
 The One foretold is near, who enters our world as Prince of Peace.  
**The day is a hand! The savior draws near!**  
 We are ready to welcome the King of Kings!

**\*OPENING HYMN**    *Angels We Have Heard on High*    No. 238

**WELCOME**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**We welcome you, O God.**  
**Reveal your presence in our worship.**  
**Flow through our lives, our church, and our world**  
**with your love, power and peace.**  
**We present our hearts to Jesus, King of Kings!**  
**Humbly we pray. Amen.**

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT**    Carolyn Russell

**LIGHTING THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE**    *The Candle of Love*  
*(congregation sings "Away in a Manger" as children come and go)*