





December 22, 2024

### **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

10 AM

Chimes indicate the service is starting, and silence is appreciated to prepare for worship.

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Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (Polish Carol; W. Held)

Marcia Snavely, organ

**Welcome and Announcements** 

Pastor Vicki McGaw

Introit

**Prelude** 

Come, Light of Christmas (Cindy Ovokaitys)

Federated Choir

Marcia Snavely, piano

\* Call to Worship/ Advent Candle Lighting

Dana Korosi and Gylene Pelton

One: We come to this space seeking . . .

All: Deeper hope, peace that offers freedom, joy that overflows, and the courage to love.

One: We come seeking, but here in this place, we are found. Take a deep breath. This is your sanctuary.

All: God is here. We are found. God's love knows no bounds.

One: God's love is like an open door and the sun that streams through the windows. God's love is like the roof over our heads and the floor beneath our feet.

All: God's love is a home for you and me, for neighbors and strangers, for family and partners, for enemies and friends.

One: God's love is a home for all. Today we light the candle of love to remind us of this truth.

All: May it burn brightly in this space and even brighter in our hearts. Amen.

\* Hymn

Sanctuary

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, Pure and holy, tried and true. With thanksgiving, I'll be a living Sanctuary for you.

Teach your children to stop the fighting
And start uniting all as one.
Let's get together loving forever
A sanctuary for you.

Those who are able stand

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, Pure and holy, tried and true. With thanksgiving, I'll be a living Sanctuary for you.

### Message for the Young at Heart

Pastor Vicki McGaw

- \* Passing of Christ's Peace
- \* **Hymn** Emmanuel, Emmanuel No. 134

#### Call to Confession/Prayer of Confession

Pastor McGaw

One: God of safe spaces, we wish we were more like Mary who, in the face of great change, went and sought help. She didn't wait for help to find her; she walked to the shelter she needed.

All: Too often we wait silently for the world to change around us instead of speaking up for the things we need. Forgive us for failing to care for ourselves the way you would care for us. Give us the courage to be more like Mary.

One: God of safe places, we wish we were more like Elizabeth, who greeted Mary with laughter and contagious joy. How many people have crossed our doorstep and how many times have we failed to offer them extravagant welcome?

All: Give us the courage of Mary, and the grace of Elizabeth. Gratefully we pray. Amen.

# Words of Forgiveness

Pastor McGaw

One: Friends, even if we miss the person standing on our doorstep, even if we fail to care for ourselves the way God would care for us, even if we forget and ignore, turn away and shut down, God still loves us. There is nothing we can do to lose God's love. So rest in this promise:

All: If we get lost, we will be found. If we mess up, we are forgiven. If we withhold love, God is lavish in loving us. We are claimed. We are loved. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Rev. Betsy Wooster

**Anthem** 

Celebrate the Coming of the Lord! (Johnny Carr and Don Phillips)

Federated Choir; Marcia Snavely, piano

\* Doxology Tune: TRURO

To God, all glorious heavenly light; To Christ revealed in earthly night; To God the Spirit now we raise; Our joyful songs of thankful praise.

\* Prayer of Dedication

Pastor McGaw

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Fellowship of Prayer

Rev. Wooster

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.

\* **Hymn** Canticle of the Turning [words on screen]

Scripture Luke 1:39-55 Pastor McGaw and Rev. Wooster

**Sermon** Pastor McGaw

\* **Hymn** Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming No. 126

\* Benediction Pastor McGaw

**Postlude** God Rest You Merry (W. Held) Marcia Snavely, organ

~ Departing to Service~

## **UPCOMING WORSHIP**

Christmas Eve Services Tuesday, December 24th

12:30PM, 4 PM, 6:30 PM

Music Begins 20-30 Minutes Before the Services