

December 19, 2021
Bread for the Journey – Fourth Sunday in Advent
An Act of Trust: Friendship Bread

PREWORSHIP MUSIC

*Of the Father's Love Begotten*¹
*When Love Was Born?*²
*The Hallelujah Chorus*³

PRELUDE

Heaven's Love Shines Down this Day (Johnson)⁴

GREETING

Rev. Laura Bair-Baker

CALL TO WORSHIP & ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

Pastor: Fellow pilgrims, we are taking our final steps towards Bethlehem, the House of Bread, where Mary and Joseph journeyed almost 2,000 years ago.

Congregation: **How interesting that our Savior, Jesus, would be born in the “House of Bread” and laid in a feeding trough. How interesting that Jesus would grow up and proclaim, “I am the Bread of Life: Whoever comes to me will never hunger again. Whoever believes in me will never thirst.”**

Pastor: Disciples of Jesus, do you remember the meaning of His name?

Congregation: **“Jesus,” is a name which means “he saves.” Jesus came to save us from death. He feeds us words of life, liberates us from fear, saves us from sin, rescues us from death and raises us to new life.** God promised us a Messiah. God promised us a Savior. God's promises are fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God!

Pastor: This morning, we light the four outer candles of our advent wreath – trusting that the darkness will never overcome the Light of the World, who is Jesus, the Bread of Life, who was born in the House of Bread, saves us from our sins. Let us pray together:

All: *Holy God, from the very beginning you knew that we could never walk this journey of life alone. Thank you for giving us Bread for the journey – in this life and the next. Thank you for the many times you have brought us out of trials, through suffering, and restored our brokenness. As the first Advent candle flickers with light, so you give us light in our darkness. Feed us again this Advent, that we might find our souls nourished, our spirits fed for the remainder of our days in this life, and into the next. Amen.*

SPECIAL MUSIC

More Precious Than Silver (Bettcher)⁵

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Zephaniah 3:14-18

EPISTLE READING

1 Corinthians 10:17

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Matthew 6:11-13

SERMON

An Act of Trust
Friendship Bread

Rev. Bair-Baker

¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AACo2zzHMbQ>. Darby Hughes - Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # L-12615. All rights reserved. CCLI Church Copyright License #105224, CCLI Church Streaming License #100115, CCS License #102014

² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aKSU9Dbxvrw> -Alvin Schultz - Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # M-5114315. All rights reserved. CCLI Church Copyright License #21207, CCLI Church Streaming License #111185, CCS License #12335

³ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pTCYGgZvAlM> - Collingsworth - Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #B-66245. All rights reserved. CCLI Church Copyright License #10052, CCLI Church Streaming License #155884, CCS License #100523

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PASTORAL RAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: *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.*

ANTHEM*Heaven's Child*⁶

Chancel Choir

CONFESSION and ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (A Story)⁷**OFFERING INVITATION****PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

All: *Provider God, forgive us the many times we have hoarded in fear of not having enough. Help us this day to trust that what we need will not run out and make us more generous. Receive all we give, multiply and bless it for the work of your Kingdom. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.*

HYMN*Joy to the World*

Hymnal, #120

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Filled to bursting with the goodness of God,
the nourishment of Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life,
and the power of the Holy Spirit,
go now in hope, peace, joy, and love
to serve God, neighbor, and stranger,
in all that you think, do, and say.

All: *Amen.*

POSTLUDE*The Birth of the Lord is at Hand* (Marks)⁸

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⁷ History of mary Tilden Dewew. <https://www.sevendaysvt.com/LiveCulture/archives/2021/07/27/251-tracing-history-at-the-bennington-centre-cemetery>

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