

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 18, 2022

PRELUDE

**Mr. Cody Eckenrode, Organ
Acolyte**

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST IS CARRIED INTO THE SANCTUARY

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP ¹

Pastor: Lift up your hearts, people of God,
for the Lord has looked favorably upon us
and is sending us his beloved Son.

**All: *The Lord is raising up for us a mighty Savior
in the house of his servant David.***

Pastor: God is showing the mercy promised to our ancestors,
and has remembered his holy covenant,
the oath he swore to our ancestors Abraham and Sarah,
that we might serve him without fear.

All: *Arise, Arise, believers! God's Kingdom is at hand.*

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Arise, the Kingdom is at Hand ²

Hymnal, #93

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING³ (Based on 1 John 4:18 and Jeremiah 33:11)

Liturgist: Today, we light the fourth candle of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. Today,
we have lit the candles of HOPE, PEACE, and JOY. Today, we light the candle of LOVE.

THE CANDLE IS LIT

Liturgist: Scripture tells us "There is no fear in love, for perfect love casts out fear."
God created the world in love and this world will end in the love of God.
God's love encompasses and permeates all aspects of life.
From birth to death, beginning to end, and every second in between.

**All: *We give thanks to God Almighty, for the Lord is good; his love endures forever.
Amen.***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION⁴

Pastor: God of Love,
We confess we are sometimes impatient, and often unkind,
We are quick to envy and find subtle ways to boast.
There are times we are rude and lift ourselves up as we put others down.

All: *Loving God teach us to love.*

Pastor: God of Love,
We confess that we are quickly angered.
We are quick to record how often we've been wronged.
There are times we celebrate the misfortune of others.

All: *Loving God teach us to love.*

Pastor: God of Love,
We confess that we put ourselves first.
We're reluctant to give, we are slow to sacrifice.
There are times we hesitate to protect.

All: *Loving God teach us to love.*

Pastor: When we are tempted to judge, to assume the worst...

¹ November 30, 2015 By [liturgylink](https://www.liturgylink.net/2015/11/30/ctw-lift-up-2/). <https://www.liturgylink.net/2015/11/30/ctw-lift-up-2/>

² Public Domain. CCLI SONG #6379029

³ Baker, Laura C. 2022.

⁴ Re:thinkworship. 1 Corinthians 13, Responsive Reading about Love. January 26, 2019. <https://www.rethinkworship.com/1-corinthians-13-responsive-reading-about-love/>

All: *May love remind us to trust.*
Pastor: When we are tempted to despair, to assume all is lost...
All: *May love remind us to hope.*
Pastor: When we are tempted to give up, to assume it will never happen...
All: *May love remind us to persevere.*
Loving God teach us to love,
Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS⁵

Pastor: Hear the prophecy of Zechariah:
Tender mercy and forgiveness
are the ways of God.

All: *We are forgiven.*
Pastor: Let the church shout, "AMEN!"
All: *AMEN!*

SPECIAL TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

Rev. Laura C. Baker

HYMN

*Hark, the Glad Sound!*⁶

Hymnal, #97

HEBREW READING

Numbers 21:1-9

EPISTLE READING

1 Corinthians 13:1-8a

GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:68-79

SERMON & PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Laura C. Baker

SPECIAL MUSIC

Christmas Communion Song (Ray/Callaway)

Chancel Choir

OFFERING INVITATION⁷

Liturgist: The Lord is coming. Prepare the way! Prepare to welcome the messiah! Welcome the redeemer with your very lives. Know the Lord's tender mercy. Let all that you are become an offering pleasing to God and let us offer all that we give with a song and prayer.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Hymnal, #551

OFFERTORY PRAYER⁸

All: *God of eternal, redeeming love, receive us and the gifts we offer in this moment. Bless us and our offerings, that all may be used to serve all your children in the world with hope, peace, joy, and love. We pray through Christ who taught us to pray, saying: 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.*

RECESSIONAL HYMN

*Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*⁹

Hymnal, #99

BENEDICTION

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST IS CARRIED INTO THE WORLD

Acolyte and All People

POSTLUDE

⁵ Holznagel, Hans. *WORSHIP ELEMENTS*: March 20, 2022. <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/4410/worship-elements-november-20-2022>

⁶ Public Domain. CCLI SONG #2961132

⁷ Hoppe, Bill. *WORSHIP ELEMENTS*: December 5, 2021. <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/3276/worship-elements-december-5-2021>

⁸ Baker, Rev. Laura C, 2022.

⁹ Public Domain. CCLI SONG #258992