

Worship Guide

December 19, 2021: The Fourth Sunday of Advent

GREETING AND INTRODUCTION

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: All through this season of Advent, we have encountered Hope, Peace and Joy.

P: Today Belief and Love are the theme.

L: Today we will hear the story of surprising commitment.

P: We will learn of Mary and God's wonderful love.

L: Today we will be challenged to believe in all that God can do.

P: Open our hearts, Lord, that we may be ready for your love. AMEN.

OPENING PRAYER: O God of Elizabeth and Mary,
you visited your servants with news of the world's redemption
in the coming of the Savior.

Make our hearts leap with joy,
and fill our mouths with songs of praise,
that we may announce glad tidings of peace,
and welcome the Christ in our midst. Amen.

OPENING HYMN: *O Little Town of Bethlehem #230UMH*

1. *O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;
above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*
2. *For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth!*
3. *How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given;
so God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.*
4. *O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!*



LIGHTING OF THE 4th ADVENT CANDLE

Reader 1:

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, 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 onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this. **Isaiah 9:6-7**

The first candle was the candle of Hope. (Light 1st Advent Candle)

The second candle was the candle of Peace (Light the 2nd candle).

The third candle was the candle of Joy. (Light the 3rd candle).

We light this 4th candle as a symbol of the Prince of Peace.

May the visitation of your Holy Spirit, O God,

Make us ready for the coming of Jesus, our hope and joy.

O come, O come, Emmanuel. (Light the 4th Advent Candle)

RESPONSIVE HYMN: *Light the Advent Candle #2090 TFWS* (verse 4)

4. Light the Advent candle four,

Think of joy forever more;

Christ Child in a stable born,

gift of love that Christmas morn.

Candle, candle burning bright

Shining in the cold winter night

Candle, candle burning bright

Fill our hearts with Christmas light.

SCRIPTURE

Old Testament Lesson: Micah 5:2-5a

Gospel Lesson: Luke 1:39-45

L: The word of God, for the people of God.

P: Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE: The Blessing of Home

Kevin Tansey

SONG BEFORE & AFTER TIME OF PRAYER: *O Lord, Hear Our Prayers#2200TFWS*

O Lord hear our prayer, O Lord hear our prayer When we call, answer us. O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord here our prayer Come and listen to us.

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (after each time of silence, we'll finish with the words "Lord in your mercy" and you are invited to respond, "**Hear our prayer.**")

THE 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass 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.

OFFERING

This is an opportunity to share the goodness that has been given to you. Consider sending an offering to PO Box 630, Skowhegan, ME 04976. You are also invited to support an organization or church in our local community that is making a positive difference in people's lives.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CLOSING HYMN: *I Want to walk as a Child of the Light #206 UMH*

1. *I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God sent the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.*

Refrain:

*In Him, there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*

2. *I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path,
And show me the way to the Father.*

[Refrain]

3. *I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
We shall know the joy of Jesus.*

[Refrain]

BENEDICTION

God asks us if we will be God's people.
Our hearts want to shout yes!
Go into the world, feeling God's healing presence in your lives.
Tell others about God's love.
Do not be afraid! God is truly with you. AMEN.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The New HEARTS AND HANDS THRIFT SHOP

Co-Managers: James Barto and Ila Libby

Hours of Operation: Wednesdays 9 AM to 12 PM

*****Call James @ 207-858-0257 to arrange drop off donations or for more information**

The Thrift Shop will be holding an indoor Christmas sale in the fellowship hall each Saturday, from 9 AM– 12 Noon until Christmas.

CLOTHING CLOSET

The Clothing Closet is open on Wednesdays 9 AM to NOON and 5 PM to 7 PM

The Donation Bin is now closed to receiving donations.

THE CUP CAFÉ

Our CUP Café is open on Wednesdays 9AM—12 NOON.

Each week we offer a light lunch, lemonade, coffee and snacks. We also have FREE Wi-fi.

FREE DRIVE THRU COMMUNITY MEALS

Our free Drive Thru Community meals are on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. Our next meal will be on December 28th. Chopsuey, veggies, and dessert. Call 207-474-3915, leave your name and number of meals. Pick up time is between 5pm and 6 pm that evening.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT LENDING PROGRAM

Do you or someone you know have need for a wheelchair, walker, crutches, canes, etc.? If so, we have many of these items available through our medical lending program. This is offered by ap-ointment. Call 207-474-3915 and leave your name, phone number, and the item that you need. Someone will contact you. This is an outreach through the partnership of Common Unity Place and Centenary United Methodist Church.

SKOWHEGAN AREA YOUTH GROUP

Thursdays from 5:30-7 pm at Centenary UMC on the Dr. Mann Rd. Snacks and activities provided. For more information, please call Sharon Newell or Kevin Tansey at 207-708-0767 or 207-877-5987.

*If you have unwanted or broken Christmas decorations, please bring them in and drop them off in the Sunday School Room. We will use them for craft projects to sell.

BIBLE STUDY COMING IN JANUARY 2022!

“Behold, I am *COMING SOON*” Rev 22:7

Bible Study on the Book of Revelation

Or All you ever wanted to know about the end of time, as prophesized by the prophet John

Tuesdays from 10:00 am - 11:00am in the “Café”

- 1/11 Who, What, Where, When, Why and How?
- 1/18 How Soon is Soon? Or How Can Soon Not Be Soon?
- 1/25 The Players: Good Guys, Bad Guys, Beastie Boys and Girls.
- 1/31 What’s Happening Here? Places and Events.
- 2/15 Are These Sevens Lucky or Unlucky?
- 2/22 What Would Jesus Do, and What Would Jesus Have Us Do
About the End of the World?

Contact John Malek (399-2955) with Questions or to sign up...“Soon!”

*****Pre-Reading the whole Book of Revelation before will help
you understand more*****