

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

December 19th, 2021

“FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT”

“COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERIES”

Liturgical Color – Purple



DALLAS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TODAY'S CENTERING MEDITATION

*Mary responded,
“I am the Lord’s servant.
May everything you have said about me come true.”*

~ Luke 1:38 ~

* Please stand in stature or in heart as you are able.

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PRELUDE ... *A TIME TO FOCUS OUR THOUGHTS AND HEARTS ON KING JESUS*

PROCLAMATION

COME HOME

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

196 (verse 1)

OPENING PRAYER

* CALL TO WORSHIP:

Come, joy, lighten our spirits.
Come, hope, lift us from despair.
Come, peace, ease our frantic worry.
Come, love, shine in all we do.
Come, Jesus, be born in us.
Come, Lord, set us free.
Come, God,
Rule in our hearts and teach us to sing with joy!

* *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

213 (verses 1, 2, 3)

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST, SECOND, THIRD, AND FOURTH ADVENT CANDLES:

Today we light four candles.

The first Candle is called HOPE and it is a reminder that God's promises are true.

The second Candle is called PEACE, God's gentle loving peace for our lives.

The third Candle is called JOY, because of God's absolute presence in our lives.

The fourth Candle is called LOVE, because of God's great love for us.

Come, all is ready.

**Let the light of this these candles,
called HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE, bring brightness to our spirits.**

Advent Song (Light the Advent Candle)

2090 (verses 1,2,3,4)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CORPORATE CONFESSION & MOMENTS OF SILENCE FOR PERSONAL CONFESSION:

**Loving God,
even in the midst of this season of goodwill,
there is much to confess.
In spite of holiday cheer,
stress and anxiety rule our lives.
We miss the reason for the season,
focusing instead on Christmas parties, long to-do lists,
and trying to get the shopping done.
We fail to think about your reordered world—
a world where the lowly are lifted up
and the hungry are filled with good things.
Help us adjust our Christmas priorities,
that we might join with you, O God,
in preparing a world that welcomes
the one who brings us peace.**

(Prayer continues in silence.)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PARDON

Christmas Songs of Your Choosing

(first and last verses only)

* A CHRISTMAS AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: written by Rev. Stephen M. Fearing – www.stephenmfearing.com

**We believe that God has come to us as a little child,
making our weakness his strength,
securing our salvation by becoming one of us,
blessing us with a steadfast savior,
filling our hearts with joy to be shared with one another.**

**We believe that God has birthed righteousness and justice into the world,
giving us a law that will be written upon our hearts,
making the cause of the oppressed the highest priority,
declaring an everlasting reign of peace,
defeating the power of pain and suffering.**

**We believe that God calls us to participate in this reality of love,
inviting us to proclaim Christ's resurrection at the Table,
transforming us as disciples to go out into the world,
sending us forth to announce his kingdom of peace and comfort,
challenging us to see everyone as nothing less than beloved children.**

This we believe. This we preach.

This we seek to embody in word and deed. Amen and Amen.

JESUS LOVES THE LITTLE CHILDREN

**Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world.
Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in his sight.
Jesus loves the little children of the world.**

CHILDREN'S CHAT

Rachel Bird

WHERE CHILDREN BELONG

2233 (sing twice)

**This, this is where children belong ... Welcomed as part of the worshipping throng.
Water, God's Word, bread and cup, prayer and song ... This is where children belong.**

Christmas Songs of Your Choosing

(first and last verses only)

TIME OF PRAYER / THE LORD'S PRAYER:

(Ecumenical Text)

**Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done on Earth, as it is in Heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

GOD'S WORD:

Micah 5:2-5a ... Luke 1:38-45

(The Liturgist says: "This is the Word of God for ALL people" ... AND ... The People respond: "Thanks BE to God"

Christmas Songs of Your Choosing

(first and last verses only)

THE PRAYER OF SAINT FRANCIS

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;

where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

and where there is sadness, joy.

O, Divine Master,

grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;

to be understood, as to understand;

to be loved, as to love;

for it is giving that we receive,

it is pardoning that we are pardoned,

and it is dying that we are born to eternal life.

* *Love Came Down at Christmas*

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* PRAYER FOR OFFERING OUR LIVES, OUR TITHES, AND OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

Dear God,

you blessed Mary by making her the mother of your only Son, Jesus Christ.

You have blessed us, as well, with the gift of your Son, and indeed, with the gift of life itself.

Out of all these blessings, we give you back these offerings this day.

Knowing that your promises will be fulfilled, we pledge our lives to you

in anticipation of the coming of the one who brings us peace. Amen.

* BENEDICTION

* *Let There Be Peace on Earth ...*

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PRAISES – THANKSGIVINGS – CONCERNS TO LIFT IN PRAYER

Please post your PRAISES – THANKSGIVINGS – CONCERNS on the bulletin board next to the church office door ...

OR ... call, email the church office or drop it in the mailbox.

Please do NOT use last names unless you have permission to do so.

We will gladly list your request in the bulletin for four (4) weeks beginning the next Sunday.

If you wish for us to continue praying for your request, simply let us know after the four weeks are up.

DALLAS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

... Our Mission ... Our Community & World Outreach ... Our Leadership Council ... Our Congregation ...

... Our Sister UMC Churches of the Back Mountain ... Our Susquehanna UMC Conference ...

THESE WHO HAVE BEEN NAMED:

Amy; Matt; Mary Ann; Diana; (1)

Ned; Justin; Bryan; (2)

Claudia; Carol; Bill; Patrick; Justin; Bryan; Shannon; Sherri; (4)

THOSE IN PERSONAL CARE / REHAB FACILITIES, OR SHUT-IN AT HOME ...

Sharon Miers; Elizabeth Covert; June Houser; Eleanor Fleming; Ruby Fulkersin; Hazel Garris;

Larna Hoyt; Jane Kaminski; Eula Lewis; Ann Lynch; Evelyn Weaver; Rev. Jim Wert;

THE FAMILIES & LOVED ONES OF THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY

Robert Rice; (4)

THOSE STRUGGLING / DEALING WITH

Physical & Mental Health Issues ... Addictions

THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY AND WHO HAVE DIED DUE TO ...

... Lack of Food and Clean Water ... Preventable Diseases ... Covid19 Pandemic ...

... Natural Disasters ... Wars, Terrorism, & Other Acts of Violence – specifically those being targeted because of their ethnicity, or their gender, or their skin color, or their faith.

THOSE STRUGGLING / DEALING WITH THESE ISSUES & CHALLENGES...

Education ... Finances ... Employment ... Relationships ... Being in Prison ... Being Released from Prison

OUR NATION

Volunteers ... Health Care Workers ... First Responders ... Leaders at All Levels ... Armed Forces Personnel

OTHER NATIONS AND LEADERS OF THE WORLD

Including Our Enemies & Those We Simply Disagree With