

Advent 3: Love

December 13, 2015

9 & 11 a.m.

**Please stand in body or Spirit*

Announcements for the Good of the Community

PRELUDE *What Child is This?* - arr. Robert Hobby

CHORAL INTROIT *Ding Dong! Merrily on High* - arr. C. Jennings
- Wings -

*CALL to WORSHIP: *(Please turn and face the Advent wreath in the North)*

One: For moments of love that stir and swirl within us,

Many: **We gather to open our hearts to the One who was, is, and will be love incarnate, in the flesh.**

One: For the promise of love we can never hear enough,

Many: **We gather to open our imaginations to let words like, “unconditional,” “unceasing,” and “pure gift” remind us of God’s life-changing affection for us.**

One: For this candle of love which we now light.

Many: **We feel our hearts strangely warmed and orient our lives toward the story at the heart of this season.**

*OPENING HYMN

No. 107

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Dawn

Rejoice, Rejoice

OPENING PRAYER

Holy One, we gather around the flame of love today. So often, we casually toss around the word, “love” like a throw pillow. Yet, we know love is the center of who You are. We know that love is the weak force of Your presence always within and around our lives. We give thanks for images of love like a parent helping a child, a person helping his or her spouse

when they can no longer do things on their own, the presence of people in our lives who give love flesh and bone and breath. We pause around the candle of love for a few moments of silent prayer:

During the prayer please consider:

Who helps make love real in your life right now?

Where might you share God's love this week?

How does God's love move from being a nice concept on Sunday to a lived reality in your life? (Perhaps laughter with friends over a cup of hot chocolate).

Help keep us open for that star of wonder, star of light, star that reveals Your heavenly grace here and now in our lives. Guide us toward that perfect light of love each day as we inch closer to Christmas. Amen.

OFFERTORY *Lo, How a Rose* - arr. Deborah Govenor
- 9am, Matins Choir; 11am, Chancel Choir -

*RESPONSE

What can I offer, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb. If I were a wise one, I would do my part: But what can I offer: all my heart.

*PRAYER of DEDICATION *(In Unison)*

Holy One, this morning our children offer to us the old, old story that speaks of the profound truth of this season. We offer our gifts, not only of treasure like the Wise Ones, but our gifts of listening, openness, words of kinds said with care to our children as they lead us in worship. Guide us to gifts of love and support to our children. This is a day when the words of the Psalmist that, "our cups runneth over" are seen in the holy moments of our children's faces and their offering to us. May this day inspire our stewardship and our lives will into the dawning of 2016. With great anticipation to hear anew and afresh the story of Your love entering our world, we pray. Amen.

OUR LIGHTS ON THE NIGHT OF CHRISTMAS
In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Ouirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

SERMON *In These Days/On This Day* Pastor Wes

SERMON HYMN *Once in Royal David's City* verses 1 and 2 only No. 145
Irby

Christmas Pageant GO TELL IT!

Written by Gretchen Wolff Pritchard; Adapted by Gregory Chestnut

Narrators: Emma Melton, Colin VanArsdall

Scene one *The Prophecy of the Coming Christ*
Prophets: Daniel Werner, Padraig McAnarney, Grant Burroughs

Scene Two *The Annunciation*
Gabriel: Olivia Bixby *Mary:* Minnie Bryant

Hymn No. 105
Gentle Joseph, Joseph Dear Verses 1 and 2 only

Scene Three *The Birth*
Joseph: Jack Werner *Mary:* Minnie Bryant
Innkeepers: Christine and Jonita Bryant

Carol *Away in a Manger*

Scene Four **The Worship of the Shepherds**
Shepherds: Kamden Bailey, Dalton Burroughs, Liah Truedinger,
John Werner, Nicolas VanArsdall

Angel of the Lord: Olivia Bixby

Angels: Jersey Baldini, Sedona MaCloud

Carols *Angels We Have Heard on High*
Hydom, Hydom

Scene Five **The Adoration of the Magi**
Gaspard: Daniel Werner; *Melchoir:* Pdraig McAnarney
Balthazar: Grant Burroughs

CLOSING HYMN No. 154
Go Tell It on the Mountain Go Tell It

*BLESSING and BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Go Tell It!* - arr. David Lowe
(The congregation is invited to be seated and listen to the Postlude)

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

At 9am: GREETERS: Barb and Joe Yocum; **GUEST BOOK:** Joy Sicks;
LITURGIST: Boyd Aebli; **USHERS:** Chuck Jarman, captain; Tam Milton and
Vince Amoroso, Lucy Hedrick, Christine Knupp; **SOUND SYSTEM:** Barney
Kavanagh; **COFFEE HOUR HOST:** Staffing Team.

At 11am: GREETERS: ; **GUEST BOOK:**; **LITURGIST:** John Hilficker;
USHERS: Wes Curry, captain; George Francis and Rachel Taylor; **SOUND
SYSTEM:** Barney Kavanagh; **COFFEE HOUR HOST:** Staffing Team.
CHURCH BUS DRIVER: Jerry Oliver.

ALTAR FLOWERS, dedicated to the Glory of God, are given by Sara Little and
Barbara Shaver in memory of Sara's brother Jim Little and her mother, Aletha
Little who died on his birthday on December 11; and by Melissa Petruccelli whose
message is, Merry Christmas Papa. We miss you very much, from Sonia, Melissa,
Nick and Gianna.