

**December 19, 2021**

**Advent 4**

**11 A.M.**

Flowers are given by Nydia Smith in memory of **Dr. Bob Smith**, whose birthday is January 21.  
Vivienne Botsch in loving memory of **Wally Beckstorm**.

PRELUDE

*In Dulci Jubilo*  
The Brass Quintet

arr. Arthur Frankenpohl

Aaron Romm & Ronald Romm, trumpets; Larry Solowey, horn;  
Brad Williams, trombone; Aaron Tindall, tuba

INVITATION

\*OPENING HYMN

*Angels From the Realms of Glory*

#126

**Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
As you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, give thanks and sing.**

**Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light;  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, give thanks and sing.**

**Sages, leave your contemplation, brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great Desire of Nations, guided by Christ's natal star;  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, give thanks and sing.**

**Saints, before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,  
Suddenly, your prayers attending, Christ beside you shall appear.  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, give thanks and sing.**

OPENING PRAYER

**God, You cannot be contained or confined by any words or buildings or fancy theological arguments. Yet, You decide every year to come into our world in a way we can recognize and so our souls might realize their full worth. You come so that our hearts might resonate with Your heart. You come full of life, love, breath, soul, Spirit, laughter, tears, grace, and humanness. You come to show us life. Help us this week to hold gently the good news of great joy: You enter this world in the vulnerable form of a baby laid in a manger in a stable visited only by lowly shepherds and wise ones from distant, foreign lands. That one sentence takes a whole lifetime to explore. Your love is the light we need to guide us toward Christmas and the dawning of a New Year. So we pause in the holiness and humanness of this moment to be in Your presence, letting Your love meet us where we are.**

*Pregnant Pause to listen for the love seeking to make a home in your heart.*

LIGHTING the CANDLE of LOVE

RESPONSE

*Light One Candle for Love*

Natalie Sleeth

**Light one candle for love. One bright candle for love.  
God brings love to every heart. God comes. God comes.**

ENGAGING SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 11:1-9

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. <sup>2</sup>The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. <sup>3</sup>His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; <sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. <sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. <sup>6</sup>The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. <sup>9</sup>They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

SERMON

*Questions We Carry*

ANTHEM

*American Christmas*

Z. Randall Stroope

Soloists: Ethan Bixby, Lauren Patsos

PASTORAL PRAYER & 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 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.**

CLOSING HYMN

*Joy to the World*

**Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let Earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.**

**Joy to the world! the Savior reigns; Let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders, of His love.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*  
The Brass Quintet

arr. Arthur Frankenpohl