WORSHIP HANDOUT

Sunday December 22nd

4th Sunday of Advent: Love

In the Beginning

OPENING OF WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

\*SONG OF WELCOME Come Thou Long Expected Jesus – Meredith Andrews Version

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

A promise,

**Fulfilled.**

Love poured out into the world,

**Creating a foundation, a path, and a guide.**

A love to begin something new,

**A love that fulfills the promise.**

OPENING PRAYER

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. The Word was life, and the Word was Love. Thank you Lord for sending your Love to us in Christ. Thank you God for continuing to pour your Love into the world. We praise your name, and strive to join the unending hymn of Love. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES - Love

ANTHEM Angels Advent Carol (w/ flute)

SONG AS CHILDREN GATHER Waiting, Waiting by James Ritchie

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

\*HYMN Love Came Down at Christmas UMH 242

TIME OF PRAYER

SILENT AND 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 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 now and forever. Amen.**

PRAYER HYMN O Little Town of Bethlehem UMH 230 v 1

LESSON 1 Micah 5:2-5a CEB

**As for you, Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
    though you are the least significant of Judah’s forces,  
        one who is to be a ruler in Israel on my behalf will come out from you.  
    His origin is from remote times, from ancient days.  
3Therefore, he will give them up  
        until the time when she who is in labor gives birth.  
        The rest of his kin will return to the people of Israel.  
4He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord,  
        in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.  
        They will dwell secure,  
        because he will surely become great throughout the earth;  
5        he will become one of peace.**

May God add a Blessing to this reading.

\*LESSON 2 Luke 1:46-55 CEB

**46Mary said,**

**“With all my heart I glorify the Lord!  
47    In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my savior.  
48He has looked with favor on the low status of his servant.  
    Look! From now on, everyone will consider me highly favored  
49        because the mighty one has done great things for me.  
Holy is his name.  
50    He shows mercy to everyone,  
        from one generation to the next,  
        who honors him as God.  
51He has shown strength with his arm.  
    He has scattered those with arrogant thoughts and proud inclinations.  
52    He has pulled the powerful down from their thrones  
        and lifted up the lowly.  
53He has filled the hungry with good things  
    and sent the rich away empty-handed.  
54He has come to the aid of his servant Israel,  
        remembering his mercy,  
55    just as he promised to our ancestors,  
        to Abraham and to Abraham’s descendants forever.”**

This is the Word of God for all people.

**Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE Love Came Down at Christmas

\*HYMN God Almighty, We Are Waiting W&S 3047

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION

CONFESSION

**In the beginning was the Word, into the world came the light. Yet we tuned out the Word and tried to turn off the light. Forgive us Lord for the places where we have covered the lamp and drowned out your whispers.**

PARDON

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host,

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

\*UNISON PRAYER

Almighty God,

giver of every good and perfect gift,

teach us to give to you all that we have and all that we are,

that we may praise you not with our words only,

but with our whole lives. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks unto the Lord.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Is right…we laud and magnify thy glorious name, evermore praising thee and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts: Heaven and earth are full of your glory!**

**Glory be to you, O Lord most high! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!**

Almighty God…in remembrance of me

BREAKING OF BREAD

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

**We do not presume to come to your table, I merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies.**

**We are not worthy even to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy.**

**Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, to partake of this Sacrament of your Son Jesus Christ, that we make walk in newness of life, may grow into his likeness, and may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.**

RECEIVING COMMUNION

\*BENEDICTION

UMH 204 Emmanuel, Emmanuel

POSTLUDE