

WORSHIP HANDOUT
Sunday December 21st
Fourth Sunday of Advent

OPENING OF WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*SONG OF WELCOME God Almighty, We Are Waiting W&S
3047(liturgist)

*CALL TO WORSHIP (liturgist)

Here in worship—

we pray together,

we stand together,

we sing together,

we listen together.

Here in worship—

we are not alone.

So when life gives you reason to grieve, to fear, or to worry,
remember this moment.

We are not alone.

Let us worship our with-us God.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - Love

A: In a world full of fear, where do you see
the presence of love?

B: I see love all around us. I see love when
people hold open the door. I see love in a
warm embrace, a homemade casserole,

a phone call after a long day. I see love in random acts of kindness and intentional acts of empathy. I see love all around us.

A: You are right. Even in a fearful world, love is all around us.

B: Today we light the candle of love as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a

fearful world, love is here. Love is world-changing. Love is shining bright. We only have to look for it.

(Light candles, all but the white)

A: Thanks be to God for a love like that!
Amen.

SONG AS CHILDREN GATHER Advent Song v 4 TFWWS 2090
CHILDREN'S MOMENT

ANTHEM "Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel" Jay Althouse

Call to Confession (liturgist)

Friends, every day we are given choices—the choice to be a friend, to be an ally, to extend a welcoming hand. Some days we choose wisely, but from time to time, we inevitably get it wrong.

That is one of the many reasons we need the Prayer of Confession. In this moment of prayer, we are able to practice the art of forgiveness. So join me in this transformative moment. Join me receiving grace. Let us pray.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (liturgist – responsive)

When you were afraid,
did I stay by your side?
Did I offer my hand,
or did I leave you alone?
When you were afraid,
did I choose solidarity?
Did I see your fear,
or did I only see mine?

**Friend, none of us are perfect. We all make mistakes.
Fortunately, God offers grace, and we do too.
So take a deep breath, and let's start again.
Thank you. Your mercy is a gift.**

**Now we must ask—
when you were afraid,
did we stay by your side?
Did we offer our hands,
or did we leave you alone?
When you were afraid,
did we choose solidarity?
Did we see your fear?
Or did we only see ours?**

**Friends, none of us are perfect. We all make mistakes.
Fortunately, God offers grace, and I do too.
So take a deep breath, and let's start again.
Thank you. Your mercy is a gift.**

**We accept your grace and would love to start again.
May it be so, with God's help.
Alleluia, amen.**

The coastlands see and fear;

the ends of the earth tremble;

they draw near and arrive.

6 Each helps the other,

each saying to the other, “Take courage!”

7 The craftsman encourages the metalworker;

the one who smoothes with the hammer

encourages the one who strikes the anvil,

saying of the welding, “That’s good,”

and strengthening it with nails so it won’t move.

8 But you, Israel my servant,

Jacob, whom I have chosen,

offspring of Abraham, whom I love,

9 you whom I took from the ends of the earth

and called from its farthest corners,

saying to you, “You are my servant;

I chose you and didn’t reject you”:

10 Don’t fear, because I am with you;

don’t be afraid, for I am your God.

I will strengthen you,

I will surely help you;

I will hold you

with my righteous strong hand.

May God add a Blessing to this Reading.

18 This is how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. When Mary his mother was engaged to Joseph, before they were married, she became pregnant by the Holy Spirit. 19 Joseph her husband was a righteous man. Because he didn’t want to

humiliate her, he decided to call off their engagement quietly. 20 As he was thinking about this, an angel from the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, don’t be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the child she carries was conceived by the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you will call him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” 22 Now all of this took place so that what the Lord had spoken through the prophet would be fulfilled:

23 Look! A virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, And they will call him, Emmanuel.

(Emmanuel means “God with us.”)

24 When Joseph woke up, he did just as an angel from God commanded and took Mary as his wife. 25 But he didn’t have sexual relations with her until she gave birth to a son. Joseph called him Jesus.

This is the Word of God for all people.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE when you’re afraid, give me your hand

*SONG We’re not alone

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

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 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus UMH 196

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.

RECEIVING COMMUNION

*BENEDICTION It Came upon the Midnight Clear UMH 218 v 1&4

POSTLUDE