

*Celebration of Worship*  
*The Fourth Sunday of Advent*

December 18, 2016

9:30 A.M.

We welcome you to worship. We are glad that you are here! Nursery and Preschool care is available if you need it. The Young and Young at Heart are welcomed to the front early on for a special time in the service. Please sign the Friendship Pads so that we can get to know you better, and join us for coffee in the Narthex after the service.

**Thought for Reflection**

*Holy Advent Waiting*

*Give us the grace and the impatience to wait for your coming  
from the bottom of our toes to the edge of our finger tips.  
Come in your power and come in your weakness – in any case –  
Come, and make all things new.*

*Walter Brueggemann*

**Preparation**

WELCOME

RINGING THE CHURCH BELL

\* *Please stand, if you are able*

\* GATHERING SONGS     *Here I Am to Worship*  
                                  *People Look East*  
                                  Praise Team

\* PRAYER OF ADORATION

\* GOD'S GREETING

\* INVITATION TO WORSHIP

ADVENT SONG     *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*     arr. McChesney  
                                  Praise Ringer Bell Quartet

**God Offers and We Receive Grace**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

GOD'S LOVE, GRACE AND FORGIVENESS DECLARED

LITURGICAL DANCE     *Mary, Did You Know?*     Lowry  
                                  Sienna Petrino

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

**Proclamation**

WORDS FOR THE YOUNG AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

Message     We Light the Fourth Advent Candle  
                                  The Candle of the Angels

Prayer

*(Children in Preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade are dismissed for Sunday School.)*

ADVENT SONG     *While We Are Waiting, Come*

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.  
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

NEW TESTAMENT EPISTLE LESSON     *James 1:16-18*     p. 980

GOSPEL LESSON     *Luke 2:8-14*     p. 833

PRAYER FOR GOD'S SPIRIT

SERMON

*The Miracle of the Giver*  
Rev. Dr. Eileen Borduin Vanderzwan

**Dedication**

HYMN OF DEDICATION     *In the Bleak Midwinter*     # 36

THE MORNING OFFERING

OFFERTORY     *Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding*     Thiman  
                                  Chancel Choir

Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding; "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;  
"Cast away the dreams of darkness, O ye children of the day!"  
Wakened by the solemn warning, let the earth-bound soul arise;  
Christ, her Sun, all ill dispelling, shines upon the morning skies.  
Lo! The Lamb, so long expected,  
Comes with pardon down from Heaven;  
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow, one and all to be forgiven;  
That when next He comes with glory, and the world is wrapped in fear,  
With His mercy He may shield us, and with words of love draw near.  
Christ, to Thee be endless glory, from all men on earth be praise,  
Who from heaven wilt come to save us, and redeem from sinful ways.  
Honor, glory, might, and blessing to the Father and the Son,  
With the Everlasting Spirit, while eternal ages run.  
Amen, Amen, Amen.

\* DOXOLOGY     # 592

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER (Debts/debtors)

\* HYMN TO THE KING     *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*     # 31

**God Sends Us Out to Serve**

\* GOD'S BLESSING

\* POSTLUDE