

Celebration of Worship

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 23, 2018

9:30 A.M.

We welcome you to worship. Nursery and Preschool care is available if you need it. The Young 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 Contemplation

“Advent is out of phase with our time. It encroaches upon us in an uncomfortable way, making us feel somewhat uneasy with its stubborn resistance to Christmas cheer. Are we awaiting the baby in a manger or the Judge who will come in power and glory?”

Fleming Rutledge

God Invites Us to Worship

WELCOME

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

RINGING THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE *Carol of the Birds* D’Aquin

A MOMENT OF SILENCE TO PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

ADVENT PRAYER

We Offer Praise

* Please stand, if you are able.

* HYMN *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* # 8

LIGHTING THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

God Speaks through the Word with a Heart of Love

WORDS FOR THE YOUNG & THE YOUNG AT HEART

Message *This Little Light of Mine*

As the children leave for Sunday School, the congregation will sing

“This Little Light of Mine”

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON *Isaiah 9:2-4* p. 555

GOSPEL LESSONS *John 1:1-5, 9-14* p. 870

John 8:12-20 p. 862

SERMON *“Jesus, the Light in a Dark Place*

Pastor Lawrence J. De Vuyst

* HYMN *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came* # 16

A CHRISTMAS AFFIRMATION (in unison)

I believe that in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God – the source of light and life.

I believe that God sent Jesus Christ, as the Word Incarnate, into this world so that we all might be bathed in the true light and that because of Jesus, we are able to comprehend the true source of life.

On the witness of the disciples, I believe that Jesus was crucified, died and was buried – then brought back to life that we might also have new life in him.

I believe that the Word of God still speaks today in those who have ears and hearts to listen.

I believe, with the power of the Holy spirit, that my life can be a witness to God’s living presence and grace. Amen.

We Respond in Rededication

BRINGING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS TO GOD

OFFERTORY *Come, Thou Morning Star* arr. Hovdesven
Chancel Choir

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER (Debts/debtors)

* CAROL *O Little Town of Bethlehem* # 43

God Sends Us Out to Serve

* ANNOUNCEMENTS

* THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Jesus said, “You are the light of the world.”

Let your light so shine that people around you

will be moved by the good that you do to glorify God in heaven.

God is peace; God is with you! Amen.

* CHIME RESPONSE *Amen*
Chimers

* POSTLUDE *From Heaven High to Earth I Come* Pachelbel