



Living by Faith, Known by Love, A Voice of Hope



First Church in Windsor, UCC

The Fourth Sunday of Advent/Christmas Pageant Sunday

December 19, 2021, at 10 a.m.

A Place for the Holy: Love



Prelude

Welcome

*** Lighting the Advent Candle: Love**

Response

Love Waits for Us at Advent

Words and music by Amanda Udis-Kessler

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**Love waits for us at Advent. Love waits for us to care.
Love waits for our compassion, freely offered, fully shared.
In this time of preparation for the work of co-creation,
For the birthing of a world where faith shapes all we do,
Love is born in us anew.**

The Peace

The Love of Christ be with you!

And also with you!

As we rise in body or spirit for our opening hymn, I invite you to pass a “wave” of love to the people around you (and the people worshipping at home)!

***Hymn**

Angels We Have Heard on High

French traditional

Public domain

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn king.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.**

Prayer of Invocation

Eternal God of power and grace, who comes to us in surprising ways-in angel appearances, in defeat of enemies, in a holy baby born in a manger-show us the face of Immanuel in our time. Bring us from fear to awe, we pray. Use us to bring comfort and justice to those in need, always transforming the ways of our world for the sake of new life. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Prayer of our Savior

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

Choir Anthem

Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow
African American spiritual
Arranged by Jane Frogley

Pageant

The Birth of Jesus Foretold: Narration based on Luke 1:26-31

Hymn

O Come, O Come Emmanuel
Medieval plainsong
Public domain

**O come, o come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the son of God appear.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

The Birth of Jesus: Narration based on Luke 2:1-7

Solo

The Friendly Beasts
Public Domain

The Good News Spreads: Narration based on Luke 2:8-15

Hymn

The First Nowell
Traditional English carol
Public domain

**The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, born is the king of Israel.**

**They looked up and saw a star,
shining in the east beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, born is the king of Israel.**

**And by the light of that same star
three wise ones came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, born is the king of Israel.**

Reading

O Sing a New Song
A Response by Ruth C. Duck

Hymn

Joy to the World
Words by Isaac Watts
Music by G.F Handel
Public domain

**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 earth! The Savior reigns:
let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy!**

Poem

“The Work of Christmas” by Howard Thurman

Hymn

Away in a Manger

By James R. Murray
Public domain

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.**

Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer Response

Emmanuel

Words and music by Bob McGee
C 1976 C.A. Music

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**Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
his name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us.
His name is called Emmanuel.**

Announcements

Offering Plates are on the tables back of the church. We encourage you to give online [here](#).

Carol

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Words by Charles Wesley
Music by Felix Mendelssohn
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**Hark! The herald angels sing, 'Glory to the newborn King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled'
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, 'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'
Hark! The herald angels sing, 'Glory to the newborn King!'**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail th'incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, 'Glory to the newborn King!'**

**Hail the heavenborn Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, 'Glory to the newborn King!'**

***Benediction**

May God's Door of Welcome
swing open in your heart and in your life.

May Christ's humble first dwelling
remind you of the plenty you already know.

And may the Spirit lead you into
more possibility and hospitality than you can imagine,
making room in The Inn for all.

May it be so for you.
May it be so for us.
May it be so for this church.
Amen.

Postlude

Noel #X
By Louis-Claude Daquin
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*Please stand as you are able
Bolded Font to be read by all