



December 22, 2024

The Fourth Sunday of Advent: **Love**

We Gather Together in the Love of God

Prelude

Sherry Steele

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Valerie Oden

Advent Candle Lighting: The Candle of Love

Music: "Gesu Bambino" by P. Yon; words and arr. by Joel Raney

*Sung: O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And end this gloom of night.
Bring hope to the world,
Bring peace to the earth,
And fill us with love's pure light.*

Litany:

During Advent we see God's love for us embodied in our Saviour's birth.

Christ is our light and the source of everlasting love.

Advent calls us to love others with patience and kindness.

Christ is our light and the source of everlasting love.

Advent calls us to be slow to anger and quick to forgive.

Christ is our light and the source of everlasting love.

Advent reminds us that Christ commanded us to love as he loved.

Christ is our light and the source of everlasting love.

Advent Prayer (Unison)

Charles Hitschfeld, Lay Leader

Loving God, in this season of Advent, we prepare for your birth as one of us. May your love fill our hearts and move through our words. As Christ is born anew, may your love spread to all. Amen.

*Opening Hymn *Angels from the Realms of Glory* VU 36

Children's Time Krystal Manuel

*Hymn *Hope Shines as the Solitary Star* MV 220

("Hope shines..." then "Love shines..." (by Rev. C. MacLean)

After this hymn children are invited downstairs if they wish. There is also a family room behind the piano for wee ones, where the service can be seen and heard and a volunteer will assist you.

Anthem *Hope and Expectation* (Wesley, Martin) RUC Choir

Readings Psalm 36 VU 762
Luke 1: 46b-55

Refection "Living Love"

*Hymn *O Ancient Love* vss. 1-3 VU 17

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

Choral Call to Prayer *Of the Father's Love Begotten* RUC Choir
(Traditional Lyrics, arr. D. Hart)

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer / The Lord's Prayer VU 921

Offering our Gifts

Offering plates can be found in the narthex. Electronic gifts are welcome by e-transfer to: contactus@riverbendunited.org or on the church website. We give in gratitude for God's grace and in hope that peace may spread to all.

*Closing Hymn *Hope is a Star* vss. 1-3 VU 7

*Benediction

*denotes you are invited to stand as you are able and inclined

“VU” refers to the red hardback hymnal *Voices United*

“MV” refers to the paperbound hymnal, *More Voices*

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services:

5:00 p.m. with the Choir and soloist John Tessier

6:30 p.m. with the Choir and Handbells

8:00 p.m. with Holy Communion



Please take a moment to welcome this season’s **new members**. They have blue ribbons on their nametags. Let’s get to know them!

Lona Boy (pronounced Lorna)

Margo McKenna

Gary Hatherly

Ryan and Tracey Thompson (*Andie and Tori*)

Richard Pawsey and Brent Bymoen

Adam Brennan Smith (*Monroe*)

James Allen

Graham Gaine (*Hugh, Rex, Zoe*)

David and Margo Gaine



Hearing Assistance available.

Please enable “T-coil” in your hearing aid or pick up a headset from the Audio-Visual desk.



Have a safe and blessed holiday week!

Note: The church office will be closed December 24th to January 3rd. Valerie is on call for pastoral care and will receive voice mail messages left on the office phone (press 2 for her) or on her cell phone.

