



ADVENT: THE GREATEST OF ALL IS LOVE

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

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THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

APPROACHED TO GOD

Before the service, meditate and speak to God. During the service let God speak to you. After the service talk to each other and the wider community about God.

KEYS

- Words printed in **ALL CAPS & bold** are spoken or sung by everyone.
- At places marked with the “✝,” you are invited to stand, as you are able.

Functionaries

On Piano

- Lindsay Lundquist

Singers

- Leona Harrison

Scripture Reading

- Louise Burton

Minutes for Mission

- Louise Burton

Videographer & Editor

- Franklyn James



Order of Worship

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Hymn: **There was a child in Galilee MV #134**

*There was a child in Galilee
who wandered wild along the sea.
A holy child, alone was she,
and they called her Dreaming Mary.
And she dreamed, rejoicing in her saviour;
she dreamed of justice for the poor.
She dreamed that kings oppressed no more
when she dreamed, that Dreaming Mary.*

*One holy day an angel came
with voice of wind and eyes of flame.
He promised blessed would be her name,
when he spoke to Dreaming Mary.
Then she spoke, rejoicing in her saviour.
She spoke of justice for the poor.
She spoke that kings oppressed no more
when she spoke, that Dreaming Mary.*

*And did she dream about a son?
And did he speak, the angel one?
We only know God's will was done,
in the son of Dreaming Mary.
Then she prayed, rejoicing in her saviour.
She taught him justice for the poor.
She taught that kings oppressed no more
when she taught, that Dreaming Mary.*

*Then Jesus grew in Galilee,
they wandered wild along the sea.
Now he calls to you and me
to dream with Dreaming Mary.
And we dream, rejoicing in our saviour.
We dream of justice for the poor.
We dream that kings oppress no more
as we dream with Dreaming Mary.*

THE LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE

Light one candle for love.
Because the world is broken and the wait is long,
but love never ends.
Love faithfully goes about the work of
casting out fear, speaking truth
healing the deepest wounds
crossing the divide from this world to the next and back again.
“Here I am,” she whispers, “the servant of the Lord.”
So we light one candle, because it only takes one:
Christ with us. **Light Candles]**



HYMN: Hope Shines as the Solitary Star MV #220

*Hope shines as a solitary star, faith is the inner light.
You and I together mirror the Light of Lights,
and illumine the pathway home.*

*Peace shines as a solitary star, faith is the inner light.
You and I together mirror the Light of Lights,
and illumine the pathway home.*

*Joy shines as a solitary star, faith is the inner light.
You and I together mirror the Light of Lights,
and illumine the pathway home.*

*Love shines as a solitary star, faith is the inner light.
You and I together mirror the Light of Lights,
and illumine the pathway home.*

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

One: We gather on this beautiful day sing, shout and proclaim that which we believe. But what shall we sing?

All: God's love is loyal and never-ending!

One: What shall we shout?

All: God's Faithfulness is for all generation!

One: What shall we proclaim?

All: God's Covenant is our sure foundation!

One: Come, let us worship and praise our God of love.

OPENING PRAYER

God of the universe, You came to us in the form of Jesus born in a stable in Bethlehem; we praise You for coming into this world as a child. Many have pondered this mystery of the God who became flesh and dwelt among us. We ponder that marvelous mystery today. Bless us in our worship, and be honored as we rejoice in You! **Amen.**

HYMN: She walked in the summer VU #12

*She walked in the summer, through the heat on the hill.
She hurried as one who went with a will.
She danced in the sunlight when the day was done.
Her heart knew no evening who carried the sun.*

*Fresh as a flower at the first ray of dawn,
She came to her cousin, whose morning had gone.
There leaped a little child in the ancient womb,
And there leaped a little hope in every ancient tomb.*

*Hail, little sister, who herald the spring.
Hail, brave mother, of whom prophets sing.
Hail to the moment beneath your breast.
May all generations call you blessed.*

*When you walk in the summer through the heat on the hill
When you're wound with the wind, and one with Her will,
Be brave with the burden you are blessed to bear,
For it's Christ that you carry everywhere, everywhere... everywhere.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Loving God,

In ages past, you poured your Spirit upon a group of people; Creating bold tongues, opening hardened ears, and marking a new era. We acknowledge that we hold back the force of your Spirit among us.

We often miss your word of grace and the opportunity to speak of your Love. In your mercy, be patient with us. Transform timid lives with the power of your Spirit and fill us with a flaming desire to be your faithful people doing your will in the name of Love. Amen

(Mindful Silence)

ASSURANCE

One: God's love and grace free us from all that holds us captive. God's love and grace renew us and call us forth to new life.

ALL: Thank be to God! Amen

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

- Christmas love letters from God

HYMN: One more step along the world I go [vs 1-4] VU #639

One more step along the world I go,
one more step along the world I go,
from the old thing to the new,
keep me traveling along with you:

Refrain

***And it's from the old I travel to the new,
keep me traveling along with you.***

*Round the corner of the world I turn,
more and more about the world I lean;
All the new things that I see
you'll be looking at along with me: (Refrain)*

*As I travel through the bad and good,
keep me traveling the way I should;
where I see no way to go
you'll be telling me the way, I know: (Refrain)*

*Give me courage when the world is rough,
Keep me loving though the world is tough;
Leap and sing in all I do,
Keep me traveling along with you: (Refrain)*

SCRIPTURE READINGS

- Psalm 89:1-4 [Read from the Bible]
- Luke 1:26-38

THE REFLECTION

RESPONSE HYMN: Love divine, all love excelling VU #333

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven to earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
All thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.

Come almighty to deliver;
Let us all thy grace receive;
Suddenly return, and never
Never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
Glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation;
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in thee,
Changed from glory into glory,
'til in heaven we take our place,
'til we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

MINUTE FOR MISSION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

At each long pause our, you are invited to offer a prayer of joys, concerns or requested prayers.

Holy God,
You are the one who Restores, comforts and the One who determines. We have no words adequate to the task of expressing how blessed we are because of your love.

We look around us and see sisters and brothers, people who share our faith and who have shared our joys and sorrows.

We look at the cross and see a symbol of your commitment to our renewal and your amazing grace. For all this, we give you thanks. We also thank you for:

Healer and Sustainer,
we name before You the concerns that are in our hearts and minds, those we confess aloud and those we screamed silently. We pray for and place before you:

Into your Gracious and Compassionate hands, we entrust all these prayers. Amen

THANK YOU, COMMISSION & BLESSING

Go out into your communities,
and take with you the knowledge
that Jesus is always coming into the world.
May hope, peace, joy of the season infuse all that you do. Amen

CLOSING HYMN: What Child is this VU #74

*What Child is this who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom Angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?*

Refrain

***This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud,
the Babe, the Son of Mary.***

*Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading. (Refrain)*

*So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh,
come peasant, king to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone Him. (Refrain)*



THANK YOU & CREDITS

Thank you for participating in today's worship, I pray you have been greatly blessed.

Remember, for those we are unable to connect with any reason; call to buoy up their spirits, and/or pray for them and entrust them to the care of the divine.

Due to physical distancing caused by the Corona Virus, COVID 19, all church activities that require physical contact are suspended until further notice.

Those of you who are on PAR and those who mailed in the gifts and offerings thank you. You can also e-transfer your gift and offerings to zionunitedarmstrongbc@gmail.com

We are always happy to hear your comments and queries. If you have a prayer request you may use the messenger tab here or email them to standrewsenderby@hotmail.com

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