

AN ORDER OF CELEBRATION FOR THE GATHERED COMMUNITY

Woodridge United Methodist Church

Sunday, December 22nd, 2024

4th Sunday of Advent

Prelude

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Jiwon

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship**

Bud Edman: Christ's love has called us here.

Many Voices: **Our spirits rejoice in God, our Savior.**

Bud Edman: Christ's love is transforming the world.

Many Voices: **In joy, we'll give thanks and sing.**

Bud Edman: Christ's love calls us to justice and peace.

Many Voices: **In faith, we'll answer the call.**

***Opening Hymn**

"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

UMH #240

***Passing the Peace**

Opening Prayer

Bud Edman: God of ancient days and future visions, we come into your presence to celebrate the joy of your Holy Spirit and the blessing of your Son, Jesus Christ. Fill us with your Holy Spirit, as you filled Elizabeth long ago. Sing through our songs of joy, as you sang through Mary. Speak through our words and our thoughts, that we may grow closer to the justice and the peace of Christ Jesus, who calls us here today. In Christ's holy and blessed name, we pray.

All: Amen!

Lighting the Advent Candle (Love)

Betty Prater

Betty: Today we light the fourth candle of Advent. The meaning of the first candle is hope. The second candle is called the candle of peace. The third candle is called the candle of joy. The meaning of the fourth candle is love.

Many Voices: **"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God."** – 1 John 4:7

Betty: Christ comes to us to offer us love!

Many Voices: **Christ is our love**

All: Christ is our love!

[Light Three Blue Candles and the Pink Candle]

Advent Prayer

Betty: Loving God, we long for love on this fourth Sunday in Advent. We are grateful that you have sent Jesus to give us love overflowing and endless. Guide us to share the love we have received from you, wide and deep. We pray more people will find a community of faith through our witness and outreach. Help us know that we can overcome any difficulties and challenges with the power of your love. Help us to know that faith can

overcome unbelief, love is stronger than hatred, and trust will heal pains. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord who gives us new life.

Many Voices: Amen.

Hymn

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (*verse 7*)

UMH #211

Blessing Our Children

Carrie S.

Offering Ourselves

Blessing our Gifts with Music

*Doxology

*Offering Prayer

All: God of grace and wonder, we offer these gifts in response to your call. As Mary responded with faith, we too say, "Here we are, let it be to us." Use these offerings to further your kin-dom on earth. Empower us to be bearers of Christ's presence, bringing hope and love to our community. May our giving reflect the promise of Emmanuel, God with us, and bring light and joy in this Advent season. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Scripture Readings

Old Testament Lesson

Micah 5:2-5a (*NRSVue*)

Gospel Lesson

Luke 1:39-55 (*NRSVue*)

Bud Edman: The Word of God for the People of God.

Many Voices: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Song

"Like a Child"

TFWS #2092

Proclaiming

"Three Months"

Pastor Dave

Joys and Concerns

Text Pastor Dave (224.600.0446) with your prayer requests or give him a note before worship service.

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

Closing Hymn

"He Came Down"

TFWS #2085

Benediction

Postlude