

+ GATHERING AROUND THE WORD +

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

✦ **PEACE**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

There will be signs in the heavens and distress among the nations.

When Christ returns in power and glory people will faint with fear.

But when you see these things, lift up your heads:

our redemption is drawing near!

Heaven and earth may pass away,

but the Word of God will stand unshaken.

We light this candle as a symbol of God's love for us

and our love for one another.

For the Lord rejoices over us with gladness, and renews us in his love. He

exults over us with singing and turns our shame to praise.

Come, Lord Jesus, come!

CALL TO WORSHIP

Love is patient. Love is kind.

Love always protects, always trusts.

Love always hopes, always perseveres.

Love bears all things, believes all things.

Love endures all things. Love never ends. Love never fails.

And now these three remain: Faith, Hope, Love.

But the greatest of these is Love.

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

“Love Come Down”

CALL TO CONFESSION

Old habits and new wrongs wear ruts through our lives and relationships.

But God is able to restore us.

Like water coursing through a desert, the waters of baptism flow through us, reminding us that we belong to God and are raised to new life.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

[unison]

Merciful God, you love justice;

why, then, do we persist in wrongdoing and every form of evil?

You have given us the gift of your Spirit;

why, then, do we quench the Spirit among us?

You have given us the words of the prophets and the Word himself;

why, then, do we despise and ignore what we have heard from you?

You have sent the light into the world;

why, then, have we loved darkness rather than light?

Forgive us. Restore us.

[continue in silence, personal confession]

✦ **RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS**

[sing verse 3 of Hymn #240 in hymnal]

+ PROCLAIMING THE WORD +

LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMAS

Written and Arranged by Joel Raney

“Come, Emmanuel, Come”

“Grant Us Peace”

“Listen to the Joyful Song”

“Love Be Yours, Love Be Mine”

“Love Divine”

+ RESPONDING TO THE WORD +

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord's Prayer [traditional]

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

✦ RESPONSE TO OFFERING

"What Can I Give Him" [see insert]

✦ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

+ BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD +

✦ HYMN #110

"Love Has Come" [see insert]

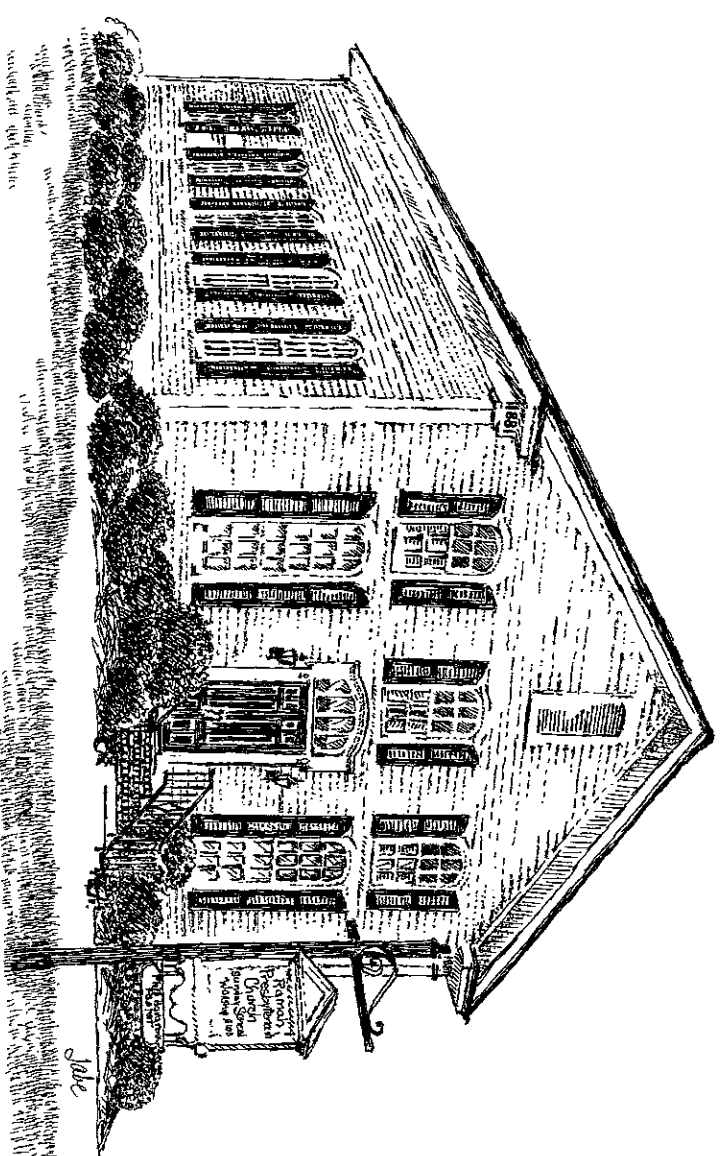
✦ BENEDICTION

✦ POSTLUDE

+ + +

✦ PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE

A PRINTED COPY OF THE ANNOUNCEMENTS IS AVAILABLE ON THE NARTHEX TABLE



RAMAH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH USA

14401 Ramah Church Road, Huntersville, NC 28078

704.875.6683, www.RamahPCUSA.org

Sunday, December 17, 2017
Third Sunday of Advent

Worship Leadership:

The Reverend Brian Copeland

The Director of Music: Tim Ward

Nursery: Alen & Scottie Baker

Children's Church: Dee & David Houk

Greeter: Marcia Knight

Acolyte: Ethan Isaacs

Advent Reader: Brian & Patti Kuykendall