

ADVENT

Sunday, December 20, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Week Four: Love

Order of Service

Gathering Song..... **“Sweet, Sweet Spirit”** (*Hymnal, #334*)

There’s a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place, and I know that it’s the spirit of the Lord; There are sweet expressions on each face, and I know they feel the presence of the Lord. Sweet holy Spirt, sweet heavenly Dove, stay right here with us filling us with your love; and for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise; without a doubt we’ll know that we have been revived when we shall leave this place.

Greeting/Call to Worship..... **Cynthia**

Leader: Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord all the earth.

Cynthia: **Sing to the Lord, bless his name: tell of his salvation from day to day.**

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

Cynthia: **Those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.**

Leader: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us.

Cynthia: **He is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, prince of Peace!**

Leader: His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace.

Cynthia: **For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.**

Hymn of Praise..... **“O Come, All Ye Faithful”**

(sing along with piano accompaniment)

1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem. Come and behold him, born the king of angels.

Refrain:

O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

2 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heav’n above: “Glory to God, all glory in the highest!” **[Refrain]**

3 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning, Jesus, to thee be all glory giv’n; Word of the Father, begotten, not created. **[Refrain]**

“At this Christmas when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving the others with God's own love and concern.”

Lighting of the Candle — Candle of Love..... **Ms. Cynthia**

Prayer of Confession and Assurance (*Unison*)

God has done marvelous things for us, but often the conduct of our lives does not reflect the acceptance of those gifts. Let us acknowledge our sin and our need for a Savior. Saving God, we confess to you our sinfulness. Greed and selfishness often influence our decisions instead of loving you as we ought. Too often, we are indifferent to those for whom this season is not a time of joy. You call us to a simple life, but we engage in extravagance, which directs our hearts away from you and those in need. Forgive us and renew us, gracious Savior. God has reached into the darkness of our lives to give us hope for living a new life. Accept the gift of God's grace today and be transformed.

The Lord's Prayer (*Unison*)

Our Father, which 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Invocation

Song of Meditation — “xxx” (*song by xxx*)

The Light Before Christmas



Participants

(in order they appear)

Erica Roy
Cynthia Whitfield
Jacqueline Jones
Sandra Johnson
Cynthia Augustus
Kamille Quick
Wayne Coffen
Malik Settles

Jaden Coffen
Eli Coffen
Jaylah Robertson
Jalani Robertson
Micah Settles
Isaiah Brooks
Nina Settles
Larry Powell
Patricia Mundell

Micah Settles — Soloist
Heart Worm

Kamille Quick — Soloist
This Little Light of Mine

Tiara Matthews — Recitation
'Twas the Light Before Christmas

Praise and Prayer Concerns

Invitation / Altar Call

Invitation Selection — “Celebrate the King” (*Ricky Dillard*)

Remarks

Announcements

Benediction

Thank You,

It has been said that Advent and the Christmas Season is a time for reflecting on the world as it is and as it might be with the coming of the Messiah. It is a time for longing and hope. we hope and pray for a world and our nation, to be reconciled, vaccinated and healed. And, we long to meet together, to worship and break bread as a congregation and with family and friends. The year 2020 has been a difficult year for so many.

For those who lost loved ones to COVID-19, for those who lost employment, for teachers and students unable to meet in classrooms, and for all the health care persons who have given so much, we pray that they will all find hope and peace in this season.



May each of Your DAYS Be Filled WITH HOPE, PEACE, JOY, AND LOVE THROUGHOUT THE CHRISTMAS SEASON.

Reverend Eugene W. Matthews, Pastor

Pray Daily at Noon

Please remember to pray daily at NOON. Some areas to include in your prayer, can include the pandemic, racial healing, government leaders, educational challenges, and most importantly for our sick and shut-ins and each other.



Wednesdays (7:15 p.m.) — Wednesday Night Experience. Call-in Information: 712-770-4010 (Access code: 331960). NOTE: On hiatus until January 6, 2021

Note from Finance: First, let us give a big thank you to all that have been giving. This is a reminder that there are several ways to get your offering to the church:

1. You can drop it off at the church, place in the mailbox (Cynthia and David Burley check it regularly) **(This will save you postage)**
2. You can mail it to the church (601 Eighth Street, Laurel, MD 20707)
3. You can use on-line giving (Give–St. Marks — <https://www.shelbygiving.com/app/giving/stmarkslmd>)
4. Reach out to member of finance, they will try to accommodate you.

Again, thank you. Just remember, even during the pandemic, the church building still has obligations that need to be met.



*“Proclaiming Christ to the generations...
Equipping disciples to transform the world”*

Special Prayers / Sick and Shut-In List: If you hear of anyone that is in need of special prayer or is taken to the hospital, please contact: Rev. Eugene Matthews (443.257.2730 (cell), 410.379.0600 (home), reveugene@comcast.net)

LaVar Thomas, Brian Bailey, Rayvon Roy, Joyce Gibson, Tony Tingle, Mitchell Talley, LaKisha Thomas, James (Stoney) Carroll, Marva Thomas, Nena Hughes, Deysha Gibson, Gloria Thomas, Sharon Thomas, Rev. George F. DeFord, Wanda Dumas, Sherman / Erica Roy, Janeen Thomas, Eunice Harding (Gemma's Mother), Tyrone / Pat Mundell, Samuel / James Briggs (Cynthia Burley's brothers), Charles Burley, Joan Moore, Larry Powell, Veronica Miller, Jeanette Reeves, Ernestine Gibson, Mildred Awkward, Grace Elaine Catchings, James Matthews, Birdie Walker, Paul Browder, Laura Dotson, Phillip Reese, Lamar Payne, Kevin Miller, Nancy Daniels, Eunice Parker, Hannah Polk, Delores Tyler

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