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December 18, 2016

Fourth Sunday of Advent

(Portions of the service that are in **BOLD** are to be said by all.
All points marked * those who are able are invited to stand.)

Approach

Carols – VU #74 – “*What Child is This*”
VU #59 – “*Joy to the World*”

Follow the Star – Believe - Lighting of Advent Wreath

**Give us joy for the world, we are aching,
Give us joy for ourselves, we pray,
Give us joy in the wonder of living,
Give us joy to always live your way.**

**Light a candle, light a candle,
Light a candle while we wait and pray.
Light a candle, light a candle,
Light a candle of God’s joy.**

Call to Worship

One: If we truly believe, let us prepare our hearts,

All: as we await the coming of our Lord.

One: If we truly believe, let us watch for the one who heard our cries,

All: and has shouldered the suffering of our world.

One: If we truly believe, let us anticipate the coming of Christ’s eternal world,

All: which brings wholeness, reconciliation and plenty for all.

One: If we truly believe, let us wait in expectation for the day.

All: That wonderful day when God’s glory is revealed in all its fullness. Let us worship God.

* Hymn VU #60 – “*O Come, All Ye Faithful*”

Prayer of Approach and Confession

Most Gracious and Loving God we greet you once again in this sacred space. We have come because we want to believe, we need to be reminded of Your love and Your expectations for our living. We are like the vine You planted, watered and protected. We know in our hearts that we need, want and desire your presence in our lives. So we come in prayer and listen for your Word to speak to our hearts and reveal again your desires for us. Divine God, we try to grow happily, patiently, and faithfully. You feed us, shelter

us, and provide for our daily needs. Yet, we often fail to offer you our thanks. We act as though we were abandoned children, trying to make it on our own. We feel forsaken and neglected, we feel alone and so we struggle to believe. Yet, through it all, you remain faithful. Renew our lives once more, so that we might find joy in You and shout Your name on high. AMEN

Words of Assurance

* Hymn VU #28 – “*Herald! Sound the Note of Gladness*”

Children’s Time / The Lord’s Prayer

The Word

📖 Scripture Reading – Isaiah 10: 7-16

Matthew 1: 18-25

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

Meditation – “Do we really believe?”

(a quiet time for your personal reflection and prayer)

Anthem – “Call the Baby Jesus”

The Response

Announcements

* Offering / Response (VU 94 v. 1 tune VU 624)

**Lovely star in the sky, banishing the night,
Shine down and hallow us, light our dark path.
Star shining in the east, be our true guide;
Lead us to worship him, worship the Child.**

Prayers of the People

* Hymn VU #73– “*The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy*”

* Benediction / Response (VU #96 v. 4)

**Will you join the hope, alight in the young girl’s eyes,
Of the mighty put to flight by a baby’s cries?
When the lowest and the least are the foremost at the feast,
Will you hide, or decide to meet the light?**

Patrick Woodbeck, Student Minister

Luci Toews, Office Administrator

Douglas Gauthier & Gloria Waldron, Nursery Care

Angie Moodie, Liturgist

Laura Steidl, Music Director

Myrna Hagues, Organist

Gina Grant, Custodian

Ushers: Major & Diena Rodd

Greeters: Bev MacRae and Lorraine Johnson