

Order of Worship

We are caring believers who grow, share, and live out our faith in Christ.

4th Sunday in Advent

December 18, 2022 10:00 A.M.

WELCOMING CAROLS IN NARTHEX Nate Giordano, guitar

PRELUDE "Christmas Gloria" arr. Larson, McDonald
Amy Duran, piano; Barbara Ciannella, organ

INTROIT Choir, Bell Choir

Our Approach to God

PROCESSIONAL "The First Noel" #265

WELCOME Pastor Sayer

CHILDREN'S CHOIR "Then the Baby Cried" Schram

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Paul & Stephanie Budinich & family

Leader: God made it a point to speak to Joseph.

People: Joseph made it a point to listen to God!

Leader: God makes it a point to speak to us too.

People: We light this candle remembering that God is always shining light onto our lives and into our lives through Jesus.

Leader: We light this candle as a sign that we hope to keep our ears and our hearts open to God speaking to us.

People: We light this candle as a sign that we are ready to listen to God.

CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 180

Leader: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

People: Stir up Your might and come to save us!

Leader: Restore us, O God; let Your face shine, that we may be saved.

People: We will never turn back from You; give us life, and we will call on Your name.

*HYMN "Emmanuel" #243

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

God, we're listening today. We're listening to this music that points us to You. We're listening to Scripture. And so we pray that You'll speak to us. Spirit, help us to hear what You're saying to us, even if it's not in words. Make us receptive, we pray. Amen.

CHANCEL CHOIR "Hurry Now to Bethlehem" Gray
Judy Hunter, Steve Sayer, percussion; Amy Duran, director

The Word of God

GREETING EACH OTHER IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

BELL CHOIR "He Is Born, the Holy Child" arr. Krug
Dorothy Abelman, director

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Matthew 1:18-25 p. 1 (NT)

SERMON "Listen Up" Pastor Sayer

PRAYER FOR BLESSING ON THE WORD

Our Response to God

OFFERTORY

CHANCEL CHOIR "On Christmas Night All Christians Sing" arr. Helvey

THE GENERAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

*HYMN "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" #251

*BENEDICTION

CHORAL AND BELL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Tidings of Joy" arr. Larson
Amy Duran, piano; Barbara Ciannella, organ

PLEASE STAY for a light lunch following worship, with the Live Nativity to follow. Because this is an important outreach event for our church, we really need you to welcome and greet folks who are coming to the Nativity. This will be a wonderful experience with a nativity petting zoo and an opportunity for the kids to participate in the performance as angels or shepherds (costumes provided) and, of course, to enjoy the nativity animals before and after the performance. There will be real hot cocoa and cookies too!

PRAYER CONCERNS: Anonymous; Lynn Baker; Christian Brueck; Deanna & Roger Carman; Marilyn Clark; Harold Friedeman; Janet Kosack; Nancy Lanzalotto; Ed Serrano; Richard Smyth; Craig Terjanian.

UNITY PRAYER: God, as we rejoice and take wonder at the birth of our Savior, let us enter the live nativity in our hearts with joy and wonder.

TODAY IS THE LAST DAY you can contribute to our Christmas poinsettia display. Please use the envelopes that are in the pews or on the table in the Narthex. Make your checks payable to the Guild for Christian Service. Thank you.

THE 2023 FLOWER CALENDAR IS ON THE BULLETIN BOARD! If you'd like to sign up for a special date to donate flowers, please put your name on the calendar next to that date. Take a slip out of the pocket to the left of the calendar, fill it out, and leave it on the desk in the office along with your check made payable to the Guild for Christian Service for \$25.

LOOKING AHEAD

Saturday, December 24 – Christmas Eve	
	Christmas Candlelight Services at 7 and 11 PM
Sunday, December 25	10 AM—Worship
Sunday, January 1	10 AM—Worship

HELPERS are needed to set up the luminaries on Saturday, December 24 at 10 AM and then to light them at 6 PM. Please let Chris Novak or Sanae Tomita know if you are able to help.

ACCORDING TO THE BOOK OF CHURCH ORDER, consistories are required to publish the names of persons elected as elders and deacons preceding their installation in order that “any legitimate objections may be presented to the Board of Elders for its judgment.” Those elected at our December 11th congregational meeting and scheduled for installation on January 15th are listed below. Please speak to Barry Wood or Steve Sayer if you have any questions:

Class of 2025

Elders: Jocelyn Brueck, Chuck Dages

Deacons: Rich Budinich, Jean Greenlaw