

Service for December 18, 2011  
Fourth Sunday in Advent

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Still, Still, Still* arr. B. Kinyon  
*Christmas Meditation* arr. M. Helman

CHIMES & CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP *Light One Candle* M. Patterson  
(Congregation and Choirs sing Verses 1, 2, 3 & 4)

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLES Confirmation Student – Mark Dravillas

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

We first lit the PROPHECY CANDLE, which assures us that, in the coming of Jesus Christ, our God has kept his word. Then we lit the BETHLEHEM CANDLE, which bids us to hear God's word with penitent and faithful hearts. Last week we lit the SHEPHERDS' CANDLE. It shines with a joyful message, which is meant to be heard and shared, so that others may rejoice as well. And today we light the ANGELS' CANDLE. It brings us near the love of God in Jesus Christ by proclaiming the eternal hope we have in his coming.

**Blessed are they who believe that there will be a fulfillment of what was spoken to them by the Lord.**

May the glow of these candles symbolize the light of God's love and grace in Jesus Christ, shining in us by the power of the Holy Spirit. May our paths be lit with his peace, not only now, but through all the days of our lives.

HYMN # 41

*O Come, All Thee Faithful*

\*CONFESSION OF WHO WE ARE

**Almighty God, you have given us Jesus Christ to be the light of the world. But far too often we have walked in darkness and clung to the sins that hide the brightness of your love. By this act of confession, forgive us and renew us, and grant that the glory of your son's incarnation may be reflected in our own lives, and in the lives of all your children. Amen.**

\*ASSURANCE OF WHOSE WE ARE & PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the gracious pardon of God be with you.  
**And also with you.**

May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
*(worshippers exchange words and gestures of the peace of Christ)*

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON John 1: 1-18 (NRSV)

HYMN # 10 *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

SECOND LESSON Luke 3: 1-6 (NRSV)

SERMON "The Scene is Set"

RESPOND TO THE WORD

PRAYER OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD'S PURPOSES

OFFERTORY *The Holy Child Will Come* P. Liebergen

PRAYERS OF THANKING & ASKING, THE LORD'S PRAYER *Hymnal Pg. 16*

GO IN GOD'S NAME

\*HYMN # 29

*Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

**\*CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

**\*CHORAL RESPONSE**

**POSTLUDE**

*Toccata on "Adeste Fideles"*  
(Note that some will be seated and others depart in joy and silence.)

D. Hegarty

**WE ARE A STEPHEN MINISTRY CONGREGATION**

**WORSHIP LEADERS**

Liturgist	Larry Criswell, Rev. Michael Ludwig, Associate Pastor
Sermon	Rev. Alex McDougall, Interim Pastor
Word with Children	Rev. Michael Ludwig
Musical Leadership	Chancel Chimes Chancel Choir Sarah Shaffer, Choirmaster Nancy Deeth, Organist
Greeters	Betty Bryan, Jane Dickerson, Joy Bissett, Bill & Suzanne Morris
Concerned Deacon	Randy Aylesworth
Head Usher	Carolyn Dietrich