

# SUNDAY SERVICE FOR DECEMBER 19, 2021

PRELUDE “Ding! Dong! Merrily on High” -arr. S. Eithun (*Hand bell Choir; Wendy Matzen, Flute*)

## WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### • CALL TO WORSHIP/ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING (*Responsively*)

One: Today is the fourth and last Sunday of Advent. We recall and relight the first three Advent candles: Hope, Peace and Joy.

**All: We are coming closer to the birth of our Savior.**

One: Today, we light the candle of Love. It is God’s love which is born among us and in us.

**All: The essence of God’s WORD is Love and love changes the world.**

One: Let us worship our Loving God who comes to us as Emanuel, the WORD of Love made flesh.

### • OPENING HYMN #128 “One Candle is Lit” (*Vs. 1-4*) (*Sung by all*)

(*We encourage masking while singing*)

### • OPENING PRAYER (*In unison*)

**Rescuing God, over and over again you rescue your people. With shouts of joy our ancestors came from slavery to freedom, from barrenness to fruitfulness, and from weeping to songs of praise. Your victory comes from unexpected people and places, those you choose to humbly bear your love, mercy, and justice. You call us to be bearers of your Word today. Too often we are unaccepting of your call. We do not fully grasp it. We are afraid and self-absorbed. Empower us to hear this message with open hearts. Give us courage to birth it anew in our time in your history. We pray in the name of the babe who comes to us as Emmanuel, God with us. Amen.**

### • WORDS OF ASSURANCE

### • THE GLORIA PATRI #35 (*Sung by all*)

(*We encourage masking while singing.*)

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,**

**And to the Holy Ghost.**

**As it was in the beginning,**

**Is now, and ever shall be**

**World without end. Amen. Amen.**

### • PASSING OF THE PEACE

(*As we greet those around us with the sign of peace, please be respectful of each other’s comfort level.*)

MUSICAL RESPONSE “He Is Born” -arr. A. Sherman (*Hand bell Choir*)

## SCRIPTURE

First Reading: **Psalm 80:1-7** (*page 540*)

Second Reading: **Luke 1:39-56** (*page 57*)

WORD FOR ALL AGES: Called to Be A Theotokos

*(Children will be dismissed for Sunday School after Hanging the ornament – “Love”)*

THE WORD IN SONG “Canticle of the Turning” *(See insert) (Sung by all – we encourage masking)*

CALL TO OFFER OUR TIME AND TALENTS

*(Offering plates can be found at the center doors outside the sanctuary. Giving is also possible online through VANCO MOBILE on our website and through the sharing of your gifts in service.)*

SILENT REFLECTION

• OFFERTORY RESPONSE #173 “As with Gladness” *(Vs. 3) (Sung by all)*

*(We encourage masking while singing.)*

**As they offered gifts most rare at the manger plain and bare,  
so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin’s alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to you from whom they spring.**

• PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HANDBELL ANTHEM “The Little Drummer Boy” -arr. D. Wagner *(Orlando Corchado, Percussion)*

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE - SILENT PRAYER - PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD’S PRAYER *(In unison)*

**Our Father, who 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 debts,  
as we forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever. Amen.**

• CLOSING HYMN #160 “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” *(We encourage masking while singing)*

• COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Tell Out My Soul” -arr. P. Manz

### **Enter to Worship – Depart to Serve**

*Our time of worship concludes at the end of the Postlude. If you would like to remain in the sanctuary to listen to this music written and played to glorify God, please do so quietly. Otherwise, you may join others in the narthex for refreshments and fellowship.*

### **Psalm 80**

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth

before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.

Stir up your might, and come to save us!

Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure.

You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.

Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.