



The Light of Love

Dr. Tim Bruster

1 John 4:7-9

Traditional Worship

11:00 am

December 3, 2017

WE GATHER

Welcome

Prelude — In the Bleak Midwinter

Cathy Moglebust, arranger

Introduction to Advent

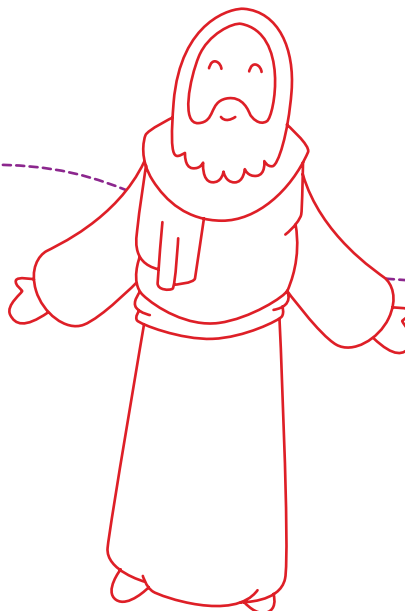
Choral Call to Worship — Small Dancing Light

Taylor Davis, composer

*Hymn 196 — Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Come, Thou long expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and **consolation**,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.



Word of the Day:
Love

Memory Verse:
Let us love each
other
— 1 John 4:7

Consolation
means to
comfort or to
make someone
feel better.

* Affirmation of Faith

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God who has created and is creating,

who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new,

who works in us and others by the Spirit.

God is with us. We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

We trust in God. We are called to be the church.

In life beyond death

Amen.

To celebrate God's presence.

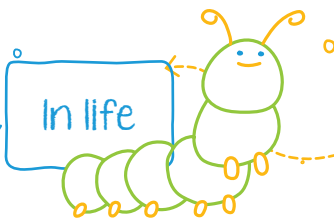
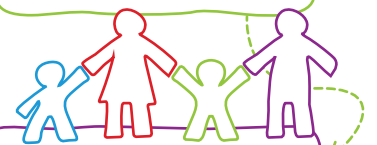
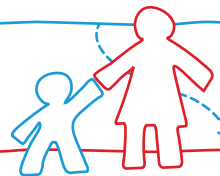
To love and serve others.

In death

In life

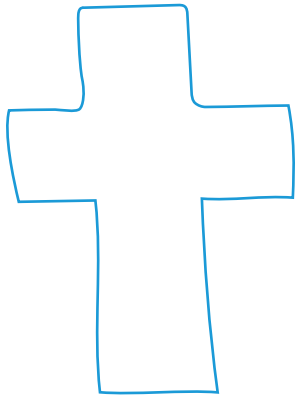
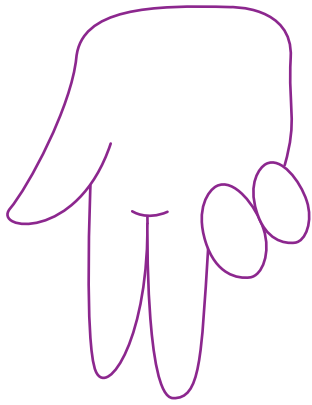
To proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

To seek justice and resist evil.



*Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;



Gloria Patri means "Glory to the Father." This short hymn of praise has been sung by Christians for many centuries.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Please be seated. Ushers will assist in seating at this time.

WE PROCLAIM

Scripture — 1 John 4:7-9

God speaks to us through the reading of scripture.

Thanks be to God.

Special Music — This Little Babe and Deo Gracias (Ceremony of Carols)

B. Britten, composer

Faith Like a Child

*Passing the Peace

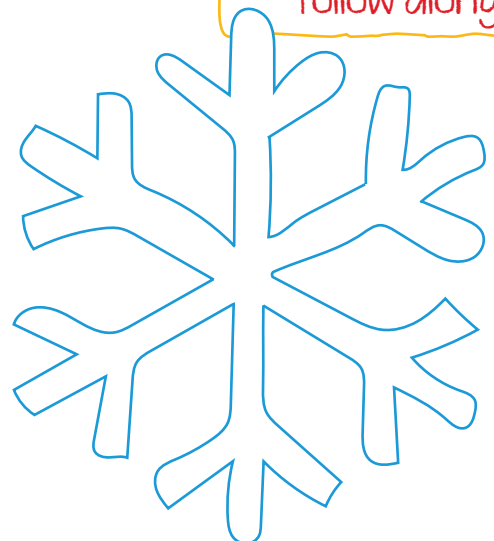
*Hymn 221 — In the Bleak Midwinter

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Scripture:
Each week we read from the Bible — the book of God's love. Its words can inspire you, comfort you, teach you, and challenge you to be your best self — a true servant of God.

You can listen as the scripture is read, or ...
• Find a Bible nearby, look up the scripture, and follow along.



Sermon Snips:
You don't have to "just
sit there." Choose one of
the sermon snips and let
it guide you as you take
your relationship with
God to the next level.



The Light of Love

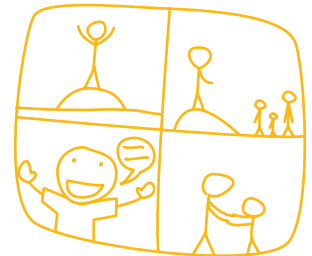
What about the
sermon
surprised you?

Be mindful.
What is something
deep inside you that
God wants the
world to know?



Look at the title of the sermon. Write down a word or phrase you think you'll hear a lot. Listen carefully, and draw a star every time you hear that word or phrase.

Take the Bible story, or one of the stories from the sermon, and create a storyboard. Think of it as a 4-panel comic strip that tells the story.



Make a list of all the things that distract you during the sermon. Can you fix some of these? Can God help?



Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Find the Prayer Cross in your worship kit. The cord has five knots, and there are five parts to the prayer Jesus taught his friends. Hold each knot between your thumb and forefinger as you say the different parts of the prayer.

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 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,
and the power,
and the glory, forever.
Amen.

Many years after Jesus went to heaven, the early church added this part of the prayer. Hold the prayer cross close to your heart as you say this part.

Special Music — Gesù Bambino (Infant Jesus)
Samuel Milligan, arranger

WE RESPOND

A Time of Giving

Offertory — On This Day Earth Shall Ring
Fred Gramann, composer

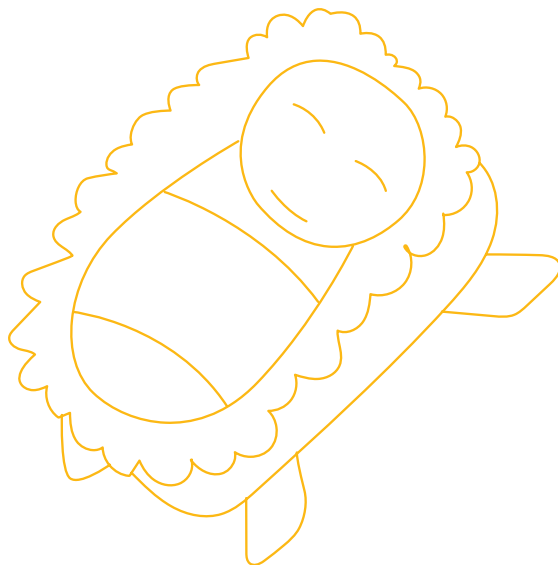
*Invitation to Christian Discipleship

*Hymn 242 – Love Came Down at Christmas

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love Divine,
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and Angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,
Love Incarnate, Love Divine,
Worship we our Jesus,
But wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,
Love be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and all men,
Love for plea and gift and sign.



*Reception of New Members

*Benediction

Our gathering will soon be ended, where will we go, and what will we do?

We will go out to be God's people in the world.

May grace, peace, hope, love, and joy forever accompany you. Amen.

Instrumental Benediction – Il est né le Divin Enfant

Samuel Milligan, arranger

How are you going
to be one of God's
people in the world
this week?

*Postlude – Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates

Wilbur Held, arranger

The poinsettias in the Sanctuary are given in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. A.J. Broderick and Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Smith.

Worship Leaders:

Rev. Linda McDermott, Senior Associate Pastor

Mr. Robert Stovall, Director of Music and Worship Arts

Mrs. Peggy Graff, Organist/Associate Director of Music & Worship Arts

Liturgists: Rev. Phyllis Barren, Mrs. Mary Grim, Rev. Chuck Graff

Faith Like a Child: Mister Mark, Nicholas Story, helper

Choir: Adoramus Choral Ensemble, Singing Women of First Church with Cornerstone Youth Choir girls

Fifth Street Bells: Ms. Sandy Ritthaler, director with Cornerstone Youth Choir boys

Instrumentalist: Mrs. Laura Logan-Brandenburg, harp; Mrs. Sally Harrell, piano

Acolytes: Jane Shelton, Will Scott, and Sam Bumgardner

Procession of the Light: Sarah Barkley, Claire Cammack, Stella Cammack, Jackson Chastain, Lola Cowden, Rae Cowden, Clara Dean, Jamie Fahey, Liam Fahey, Tommy Fahey, Johnnie Hogue, Edward Holman, Henry Holman, Caroline Hughey, Claire Hughey, Amelia Hunt, Jubilee Hunt, Caitie James, Anna Johnson, Everett Jordan, Libby Kelley, Hudson Knight, Jaxson Knight, Ella Lawrence, Mavah Lawrence, Ava Long, Genevieve Monroe, Samantha Monroe, Sydney Moore, Landon Peugh, Elle Sanders, Hunter Semple, Martha Wynn Senter, Lilly Shive, Eleanor Thomas, Thomas Walker, Willie Walker, Emma Weir, Grace Wiley, Jordon Woods

Light Design: Holly Clifford

**Please stand as you are able.*

WORSHIP KIT

↪ INSIDE YOU WILL FIND ↪

TREASURES OF NATURE BOX

One of the best ways we can experience God's power and love is by cherishing God's handiwork in the wonders of nature. Carefully open the box and discover what treasures wait inside.

BLANK CARD

You can use the pencil and crayons to make a *Thank You* note for someone in the Sanctuary who helped make worship feel special to you. It could be a parent, a minister, a choir member, an usher, or someone in the next pew who gave you a friendly wave. After the service, ask your parents to take you to hand-deliver the card.

ANOINTING BALM

Use the anointing balm to bless a friend or family member sitting next to you. Rub a tiny bit of the balm on your thumb and trace the sign of the cross on your neighbor's forehead or back of the hand (whichever they prefer). As you do this, say a simple blessing, such as "God bless you." (It's not just for sneezes.) Or, for a longer blessing, you could say:

*You are a special person.
God loves you, and so do I.
Bless you.*

And don't forget to allow your neighbor the privilege of getting to bless you.

PIPE STEMS

There are so many things you can do with pipe stems. You could:

- Listen to the sermon and sculpt an object you hear mentioned.
- Shape them in the initials of someone you'd like to pray for.
- Look around the Sanctuary and sculpt something you see.
- Sculpt a flower and give it to a family member.
- Make a friendship bracelet and give it to a friend, or to a new member.

PRAYER CROSS

The cross is such a powerful symbol of God's love and hope. Anytime is a good time to hold on to the cross. See inside the bulletin for how to use the prayer cross during the Lord's Prayer.

TANGLE

Listen to a piece of music or a Bible story and mold the tangle to show how it makes you feel. Does it make you feel:

- Open and ready for God's presence?
- Tangled and confused?
- Wrapped snugly and securely?
- Calm like a gentle stream?
- Not sure?

PENCIL AND CRAYONS

Use these to write notes in your bulletin, draw a prayer, illustrate a story you hear in the sermon, or even ask hard questions.

CLOTH FIGURE

Here are just a few things you can do with the cloth figure:

- Have it act out the events in the Bible story.
- Help it read the bulletin.
- Gently hold it the way God is holding you right now.

EYE SPY CARD AND TELESCOPE

Use the Eye Spy card to identify some of the many meaningful objects and symbols in our Sanctuary. Use the telescope to help you explore.

