

## Stables

In Bethlehem a manger waits  
 Long ago and so today  
 Where hatred-weary people pray  
 Love will come and lay there

And so do countless stables stand  
 In hearts as harsh as desert lands  
 Rough shelters in the wind and sand  
 That love may come and stay there

Love that opens fists of hate  
 Heaps up gold on beggars plates  
 Love that shows a kindly face  
 To enemies and strangers

And the walls of stables tremble so  
 When the winds of fear and judgment blow  
 For a stable hopes in love alone  
 And knows that love's the answer

O Love, the prophet's only word  
 The only lesson left to learn  
 The only end of heaven's work  
 And the only road that goes there

Love that sees with mercy's eyes  
 Holds its arms out open wide  
 Threads its loom with separate lives  
 And weaves them all together

So may the lamps of stables glow  
 Brightly that their light may go  
 For miles in the darkness, so  
 Love will find its way there



DECEMBER 22, 2019

### LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH — THE CANDLE OF LOVE

#### Candle of Love

Holy One, light our hearts with love,  
 Let us be like candles in the dark, lighting the way toward love and peace.  
 We pray that the love of Christ will be born in us again and again  
 So that people who walk in darkness can see the light.

#### WHAT CHILD IS THIS

\*SHARING SIGNS OF GOD'S PEACE AMONG US

Hymn 219

\*HYMN

**O Come All Ye Faithful**

Hymn 234 vss. 1,3,6

**PRAYERS of THANKS AND CONCERNS**

(Unison) O God of loving spirit,

**We have seen you in many times and places****Open our eyes, open our ears to be more aware of your presence****May we care for one another and be patient with one another****May we find our joy in being less selfish and more connected to all your children.****For all who mourn, we pray for help and comfort****For all who are happy and well, we give thanks.****Amen****THE GREAT THANKSGIVING PRAYER**

The God of love is with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the LORD.**

Let us give thanks to the LORD our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.***The pastor gives thanks, remembering the Father's loving and saving acts, concluding:*

God of the sun and stars, we praise you

and with all the creatures of earth and

all the company of heaven we join the unending hymn:

**SUNG RESPONSE****Holy, Holy, Holy...**

Hymn 21

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might (repeat)

Heaven and earth are full, full of you glory.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest

*The pastor recalls the Son's ministry and institution of the Lord's Supper, and concludes:*

Therefore, Holy God;

Grant that in praise and thanksgiving, we may be a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable in

your sight, and that our lives may proclaim the mystery of faith:

**SUNG RESPONSE****Jesus has died****Christ has risen****Christ lives with us today**

The pastor and people together invoke the presence and power of the Spirit:

**Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, and upon these gifts of bread and cup, that through Christ's presence we may become a beacon of holy light, a source of joy, a witness for peace. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, one with seekers far and near, and one in ministry to all the world, until we feast at the heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.**

**SUNG RESPONSE****Amen**

Hymn 20

**MESSAGE****LORD'S 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.**

**MUSIC AND REFLECTION****RECEIVING JESUS IN THE BREAD AND CUP**

\*HYMN

**Joy To The World**

Hymn 246

**\*SENDING FORTH**

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit. To give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.**

\***OFFERING** (the baskets are located at the front and back of the chapel)

\*Please stand as you are able

DiscipleChurch is a gathering of people bound together by the love of God. We believe that all people bear the image of God and deserve respect, patience, forgiveness and love. If you need a church home, we invite you to consider joining us, please see Charme Roberts (crobarths@myfumc.org), or Rev. Bill Longsworth (blongsworth@myfumc.org) if you have questions about membership.

Offering baskets located at the front and at the back of the chapel

Worship Leaders

Rev. Bill Longsworth, Charme Roberts, Ron White, Hans Grim