

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10 a.m.

December 24, 2023

PRELUDE *“Love Came Down at Christmas”*
 by Benton Price

INTROIT *“Noel (He is Born)”* CUMC Adult Choir
 by Tommee Profitt

WELCOME ALL CHILDREN OF GOD

GREETINGS

One: The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: The risen Christ is with us.

All: Praise the Lord!

PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of the Lord be with you

All: And also with you

One: Let us share God’s love and peace with one another.

*HYMN *“Angels from the Realms of Glory”* UMH #220

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The night was dark.

All: A baby lay in a manger.

One: The night was still.

All: Angels sang to shepherds.

One: The night was expectant.

All: God’s glory shone brightly.

One: On this night,

All: let us rejoice in the gift of love.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING & MEDITATION The Ridley Family

Reader 1: When the angel Gabriel visited Mary, announcing God’s plan for her to conceive and give birth to the Messiah, “Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’” And yet, only a few months later, Mary sings to Elizabeth, “My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name.”

Reader 2: We, like Mary, hear God’s call to be part of making God’s dream for our salvation and flourishing a reality, and we question, “How can this be? I am only...” Yet, like Mary, the “onlys” that make us hesitate are gifts God can and will use as God’s love transforms us into bearers of good news.

Congregation: We wait as people who have encountered divine Love that disrupts the status quo and ushers us into abundant life marked by mutual love and peace that flows from the flourishing of all people.

Reader 1: We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, our just peace, our fierce joy, and the love that transforms us. May Love grow within us, transforming us into bold witnesses of God’s salvation with our voices and our lives. Amen.

Light the four outer candles of the Advent wreath.

A TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES *“Children’s Message”* Rev. Sue H. Yun

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We often come to Christmas longing for a cozy story of a baby born in a manger. But this baby will change the world. He is called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace. Something strong and powerful began with that infant. Enlarge our minds, increase our vision, and strengthen our commitment, that we too may work for justice and righteousness. Help us walk faithfully with him, and leads us on your paths of peace. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Jesus is the child born for us. He is the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Parent, Prince of Peace. Rejoice in this good news!

THE SCRIPTURES

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

THE NEW TESTAMENT READING Romans 16:25-27

THE GOSPEL READING Luke 1:26-38

One: The Word of God for the people of God

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON *“A Child is Born”* Rev. Sue H. Yun

