

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

Charles W. Ore

WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

Rev. McGowan

* HYMN 102

Savior of the Nations, Come

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE

Marty Reineman and Patty Arnold

Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning.
 An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said,
 "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife,
 for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.
 She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."
 "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
 and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."

One: As we light our fourth Advent candle,

All: We rejoice with Mary, for Love has flesh.

One: Come now, O Child of Mary.

All: Come now, O Prince of Love.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Before the Marvel of This Night

MARVEL

The love that we have al-ways known, our con-stant joy and end-less light,
 now to the love-less world be shown, now break up - on its death-ly night.
 In - to one song com-press the love that rules our u - ni-verse a - bove: sing
 love; sing love; sing God is love; sing love; sing God is love.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of glory and light, you come to be with us, to make your home among us,
 yet we try to keep you at a distance, on the periphery of our lives.

You draw near to us, and we push you away.

In your mercy, forgive our resistance.

Awaken us by your Spirit, move into our hearts, and make your dwelling there.

Revive our love for you, and put in us a new and willing spirit that welcomes you and your purposes—
 in us, among us, and through us; for the sake of Emmanuel, God with us.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

* **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

* **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

Please sing twice:

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

This is Hymn 583, Glory to God (GLORIA).

PROCLAIMING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Nancy Fox

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 7:10–16

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Matthew 1:18–25

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. Mares

RESPONDING

* **HYMN 110**

Love Has Come

BRING A TORCH

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Offertory

Savior of the Nations, Come

Friedrich Wilhelm Zachow

* **Doxology**

VENI EMMANUEL

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel.

* **Prayer of Dedication**

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

See Communion Card

SENDING

* **HYMN 94**

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

JEFFERSON

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

* **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

Glory in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

This is the refrain of Hymn 113, Angels We Have Heard on High (GLORIA).

* **POSTLUDE**

Savior of the Nations, Come

Friedrich Wilhelm Zachow

Liturgy Notes:

The Prayer of Confession was adapted from *Prayer of Confession, Advent 4A*, by Elizabeth Nickerson.