

People: With disciplines that facilitate transformation.
Pastor: Practice love!
People: With behaviors that heal relationships.
Pastor: Practice love!
People: With respect for the brokenness of self and others.
Pastor: Practice love!
People: By nurturing children and cherishing the elderly.
Pastor: Practice love!
People: By living into truthfulness.
Pastor: Practice love!
People: By fearlessly being Christ in the world.
Pastor: Practice love!

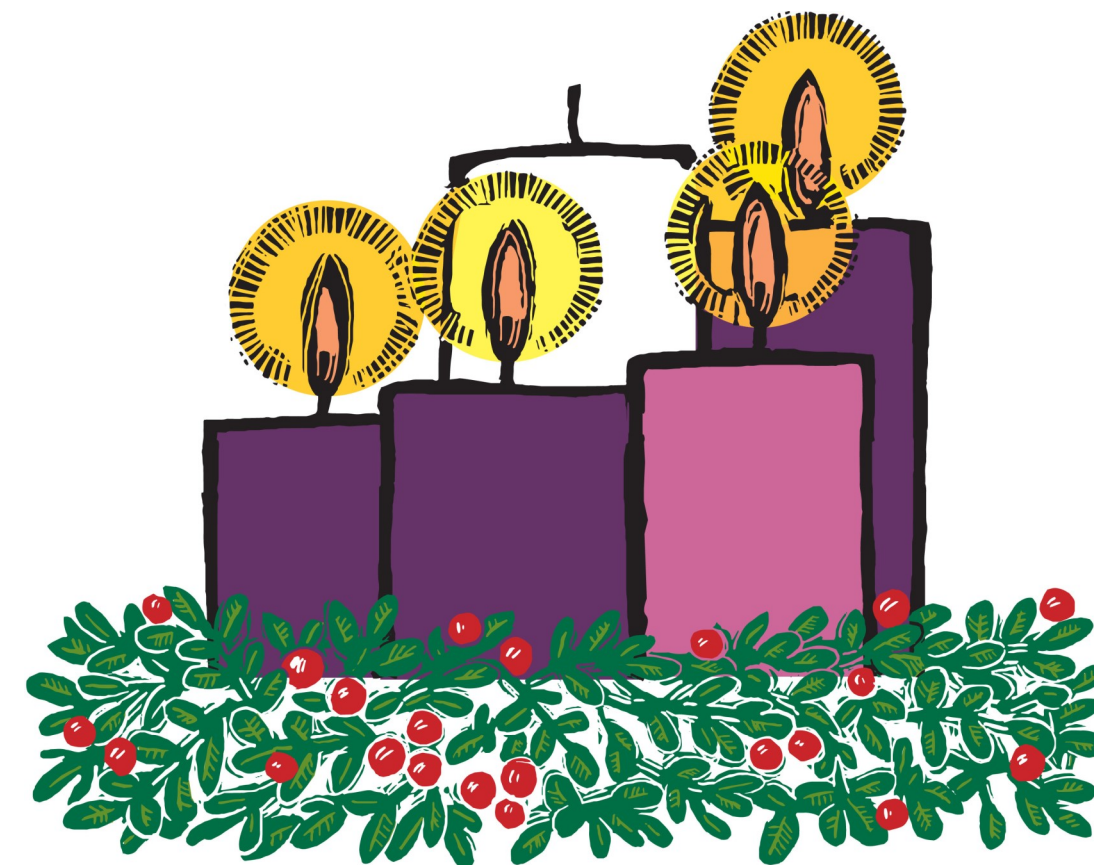
CLOSING HYMN

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

No. 238

"We take the light of Jesus into the world"

Liturgist: Jean McQuade



— FOURTH SUNDAY OF —
ADVENT

December 20, 2020

Mifflin Avenue United Methodist

Website: www.mifflinave.org Pastor's email: Pastor@mifflinave.org

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Welcome Visitors: We are pleased you have chosen to worship with us today. If you do not have a permanent church home, please consider joining us.

May God bless your experience in worship with us today.
We are here to serve, so please let us know how we might better serve you.

**Order of Worship
Fourth Sunday of Advent**

CENTERING

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING WORDS:

Pastor: Rejoice, for the day of the Lord is at hand!
People: Praise be to God, who has heard our cries and sent our Messiah!
Pastor: Soon to a virgin, a child shall be born and He shall be called Jesus.
People: The Son of the Almighty God! The King of kings!
Pastor: And all the world will join us in singing praise to our Messiah.
All: Blessed be the name of the Lord!

PRAISING

OPENING HYMN "Angels from the Realms of Glory" No. 220

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: May our souls magnify God.
People: May our spirits rejoice in God, our Savior.
Pastor: God gives rest from all that afflicts us.
People: God goes with us wherever we go.
Pastor: This is the God of mysteries, of prophecies and promises.
People: This is the God who lifts up the lowly and fills the hungry with good things.
Pastor: May our souls magnify God.
People: May our spirits rejoice in God, our Savior.

OPENING PRAYER

God with us, Emmanuel, as we draw near to the manger, focus our attention to your presence among us. As we consider the love, care and faith of Mary and Joseph, strengthen our faith. As we prepare our hearts and homes for Christmas, be our peace. Amen

INTROIT "O Come, All Ye Faithful" No. 234

CELEBRATING

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY (The Candle of Love)

Pastor: We have lit three candles—for hope, for peace, and for joy.
People: Today we light the fourth candle—the candle of love.
Pastor: With this flame, we signify the love of God that surrounds and fills us at all times, but that we recognize in a special way in the Christmas story.
People: There is no greater power than love. It is stronger than rulers and empires, stronger than grief or despair, stronger even than death. We love, because God loves us.
Pastor: Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, that God may teach us the ways of peace, hope, joy, and love.
People: We light the candles of peace, hope, joy, and love, as our circle is complete.

PRAYER

Loving God, we open ourselves to you this Christmas season. As these candles are lit, light our lives with your imagination. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared. Magnify your love within us. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

Kim Viehland

PRAYING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
PASTORAL PRAYER
LORD'S PRAYER

HEARING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION
Pastor: Prepare the way of the Lord.
People: We listen for the word of God.

FIRST LESSON: Canticle of Mary Luke 1: 46b-55

GOSPEL LESSON
The Lord be with you,
And also with you.
A reading from the Gospel of St. Luke.
Glory to You, O Lord.

THE GOSPEL IS READ Luke 1:26-38

THE GOSPEL RESPONSE
The Gospel of the living Christ.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROCLAIMING

SERMON "I Will Rise" Rev. Russel W. Shuluga

RESPONDING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING
THE LORD'S OFFERING
OFFERTORY PRAYER

Mighty God, we offer these gifts to fulfill the great works you do. As you lift up the lowly, as you fill the hungry and fulfill your promises, make us your servants—servants who rejoice in your work. Amen.

SENDING

BENEDICTION
Pastor: Practice love!
People: In thought, action, and emotion.
Pastor: Practice love!