

THE ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP

Sunday, December 21, 2025

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

11:00 a.m.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Of the Father's Love Begotten

arr. J. Southbridge

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The candle of Love will be lit by Mandy Owens.

INTROIT

Lord, Make Us Turn to You (from Psalm 80)
Isaac Brooks, soloist

M. Guimont

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(Adapted from Psalm 80:1-2, 18-19)

Leader: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel.

People: You Who lead Joseph like a flock!

Leader: You Who are enthroned upon the cherubim,

People: Shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.

Leader: Stir up Your might, and come to save us!

People: Give us life, and we will call on Your name.

Leader: Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;

People: Let Your face shine, that we may be saved.

*HYMN #53

What Child is This

GREENSLEEVES

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God: we confess our blindness to Your coming Kingdom; our pride which dares not admit that it is wrong; our self-righteousness which knows no fault; our callousness which ceases to care; our defiance which does not regret sins; our evasion which always tries to make excuses; and our hearts which are too hardened to repent. Grant to us, O Lord, Your forgiveness, and make us ready to celebrate Your coming kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

KYRIE #572

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

WORDS WITH OUR YOUNG CHURCH

Children ages K-3rd grade are now invited downstairs for Children's Worship.

ANTHEM

Hear the Bells of Christmas Ringing
Chancel Choir and Memorial Handbells

Price/Besig

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 1:18-25

New Testament, p. 1

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks Be to God.

SERMON

"Where Is God to be Found?"

Dr. Curtis Christian

*HYMN #47

Still, Still, Still

STILL, STILL, STILL

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #579

Gloria Patri

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Christmas Joy Offering

Philip Gump

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERINGS FOR THE MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY #592

Old Hundredth

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

BEARING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN #58

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks
verses 1 and 2

WINCHESTER OLD

HYMN #31

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
verses 1 and 2

MENDELSSOHN

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Go, All Ye Faithful

R. G. Huff/ADESTE FIDELES

*POSTLUDE

*Those who are able, please stand

***Late Arrivals Seated

Today's Lay Reader is David Coleman.