

THE MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

Rev. Ben Wingard, Pastor
The Fourth Sunday of Advent
The Sunday of Love
December 18, 2011

Reflect silently preparing your hearts for worship

Welcome and Announcements

Striking of the Hour

Prelude

Organist

Call to Worship

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”
Solo: Jennifer Wingard

Responsive Call To Worship

L The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

P And also with you.

L Come, listen, do not despair or give up hope. The Lord promised a sign to the House of David when it thought itself lost forever.

P The Lord said that a young woman would be with child, and bear a son. She would call him Emmanuel — which means “God with us.”

L Come, listen, rejoice and be glad. The Lord promised a child to Mary, a child who would be the Savior of His people.

P He would be conceived by the Holy Spirit and by power. She would call Him Jesus — which means “The Lord Saves.”

L Come, listen, worship and adore our God. For God has kept His promise to the house of David, and to Mary, and to all the world.

P The Lord has given us a sign and by His name, the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we will praise and thank Him.

***The Hymn of Praise #176**

“We Three Kings of Orient Are”

THE CANDLES OF ADVENT: HOPE — PEACE — JOY — LOVE

During each of the Sundays of Advent, we begin our services with the lighting of the Advent Wreath.

The candle lighting litany includes the Prayer of Invocation for the day and is followed by the singing of “A Candle Is Burning” with the congregation.

“A Candle Is Burning” is an Advent song written by Sandra Dean (copyright 1986). The tune is “Away in A Manger.” The words are reproduced here with permission as is the litany which is the copyright of Reverend Robert Fairchild.

Folk sometimes ask about the Advent Candle Wreath itself and what it means.

The wreath is of course a circle reminding us of the perfection and eternity of God. Many wreaths are decorated with evergreen branches.

The evergreen, like the circle, is a symbol of eternity but also of life. Holly is sometimes used instead of evergreen. The sharp points of the leaves of the holly remind us of Christ’s crown of thorns. The red berries remind us of his blood. There is a story that holly berries were white until Christ’s blood fell on them causing them to be red ever since.



Thank you to the Adult Choir on a fabulous Cantata.